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BIRTHS.

At Kowloon, on the 18th inst., the wife of Lieut. Colonel FATHFULL, of a daughter. [2158]
At "Rheda," Bonham Road, on the 21st inst., the wife of W. JACKSON, of a son. [2180]

MARRIAGE.

At the Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 8th September, 1897, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., J. TAYLOR GREEN, Imperial Maritime Customs, to HANNAH MOUSLEY, of the Wesleyan Mission, Hankow.

DEATHS.

At the Government Civil Hospital, at 10.30 p.m., 17th September, JOHN F. KENYON, late 3rd Officer of the steamer *Hailong*, aged 35 years. [2159]
On the 7th September, at Fern Cottage, Orchard Road, Singapore, CHARLES PAUL DERRICK, aged 32 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 20th August arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, on the 18th September (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Sir Claude Macdonald is expected to leave Peking shortly on a visit to Chefoo and Shanghai.

A special telegram to the *N. C. Daily News* dated Singapore, 17th September, reads:—H.M.S. *Iphigenia* has left for Labuan. It is reported that an expedition will be sent against Mat Salleh.

An official despatch received from Tientsin states that H.E. Hu, Governor of Peking and Director-General of Railways, North of the Yellow river, has appointed Chang Lien-fang, ex-Acting Taotai of North Tungchow, to be co-manager of the Tientsin-Peking and the Tientsin-Shanhaikwan Railways.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Holland has now a Consulate of her own in Shanghai, Mr. von Warlee, formerly Dutch Consul at Yokohama, having arrived there to take charge.

The Norwegian barque *Alette*, from Vancouver to Yokohama with lumber, was wrecked on the 8th September at Nishisaki Mura, during a hurricane, and out of a crew of seventeen ten were drowned and six injured.

An Imperial edict of the 10th instant appoints Weng Tung-ho, Imperial Tutor of the Emperor and President of the Board of Revenue, to be an Assistant Grand Secretary. This official is one of the strongest backers of H.E. Sheng, Director-General of Railways.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The sailing ship *Phasis* was wrecked and abandoned on Royal Charlotte Reef, 130 miles N.W. of Labuan, on the 3rd inst. Her crew of 27 men was picked up by the steamer *Libelle* on the 6th, and taken to Labuan. The *Phasis* is a British ship, under command of Captain Fleming, which left Newcastle (N.S.W.) for Sourabaya on the 19th June.—*Straits Times*.

Japanese vernacular papers report that the Red Cross Society has decided to order two hospital ships, of 2,500 tons gross each, in England, in the course of the year. The vessels are expected to be registered in the name of the N.Y.K. and also to be used by the Company, except in times of emergency. The estimated cost is put at half a million yen each and the N.Y.K. is said to have agreed to advance the necessary amount, which is to be repaid by the Society in instalments covering twenty years.

The obsequies of the late Grand Secretary Li Hung-tsao took place on the 28th ultimo, at Peking. Both the Emperor and the Empress Dowager were represented by Princes of the Imperial House, while every Court Minister and members of the Six Boards and Three Courts, high and low, called at H.E.'s late residence to pay their last respects to the deceased, who is looked upon universally as the type of a true patriot. The obsequies were the grandest and most imposing that have been seen in Peking for many years, not even excepting those of the late Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan, cousin of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, who was not so popular as the late Li Hung-tsao although senior in rank.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Says the *Sunday Sun*:—The Chinese are apparently beginning to wake up to the benefits of life assurance, and the agent of an American company, who has been lucky enough to "strike it" in this matter, has been doing quite a phenomenal business with them, if the report of a Tientsin consul is to be credited. Endowment policies seem to be chiefly fancied, the average Chinaman being more inclined to enjoy the fruits of this savings himself than to provide for his family. The insurance agent in question has already issued 77,000 policies, it is said, and the business shows no signs of falling off. The sudden popularity of the system is due to the fact that the policies cannot be leied upon by the rapacious tax-collector; but the Government will probably find means of securing its usual plunder before very long. Meantime there is a fine for enterprising officers; but it would be interesting to know what tables of mortality the premiums are arranged upon.

The agreement for the Jameson-Hooley Loan of £16,000,000 to China was signed on the 18th September. The Syndicate has secured the construction and financing of the Shanghai and Nanking Railway with extension into Honan, likewise the Soochow-Hangchow Railway, together with coal mining privileges in Honan in conjunction with Chinese.

At the half-yearly of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co., Limited, held at Singapore on the 8th September, the Chairman, Mr. John Anderson, in the course of his speech said:—During the last six months, the Company had had, at times, considerable difficulty over the question of Chinese labour. This was, no doubt, in some measure, due to the prohibition of immigration from Swatow and Amoy, but it was also due in some degree to the enhanced cost of importing coolie labour from China, which again was reckoned to be caused, in some measure, by the depreciation of silver. This difficulty over the Chinese labour question was being met in some degree by a slight increase of rates to the contractors for labour, and he mentioned this particularly with a view of pointing out that that, of course, would have to be balanced by, probably, some extra charge to the constituents of the Company.

The *Straits Times* of the 6th September says:—The result of the meeting of the Engineers' Committee this afternoon, and of some informal negotiations just preceeding it, is that the strike is at an end. The Straits Steamship Company have agreed to pay the enhanced rates to all their engineers and to re-instate—this being made a *sine qua non* by the Association—the chief and second engineers of the steamer *Malacca* whom they had announced they would not take back. The Chinese owners practically gave way on Saturday, but their formal concession of the points raised follows that of the Straits Steamship Company, with whom they have been more or less associated in this short-lived struggle. The Engineers' Association on their part have agreed to send back at their own expense the men the employers brought from Calcutta. The strike commenced on the 1st of September, and has thus lasted less than a week.

Vague rumours have reached Tokyo from time to time about the ownership of land by foreigners in Formosa. From the first that question was understood to be likely to give trouble, the arrangements made by the Chinese Authorities having been of a somewhat slipshod nature. After some delay, it was finally decided that, as land cannot legally be owned by aliens in Japan, the only course was to grant perpetual leases to the foreigners who had acquired land under the Chinese regimen. That has been done, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says, in over seventy cases. But it appears that the Spanish priests obtained land for church sites under a special arrangement, according to which the Chinese conferred on them an exceptional title, and they are said to be now pressing for official recognition of that title. We have no information of our own on the subject, but we are disposed to doubt whether the Spanish fathers have adopted any such course. A perpetual lease differs only in name from a title in fee simple, and it would be distinctly bad policy on the part of the priests to urge a claim which the Japanese Authorities have no power to recognise, and which possesses no practical value.—*Japan Mail*.

RE-ORGANISATION THE HONGKONG POLICE FORCE.

The Hongkong Police Force is to be re-organised, and in view of recent events the public may perhaps be inclined to say none too early. Before passing a hasty judgment, however, it may be well to give a glance at the history of the Force. Prior to 1862 complaints of the corruption and inefficiency of the police were frequent and well founded, as could not fail to be the case under its then organisation, or absence of organisation. In the year just mentioned Sir HERCULES ROBINSON, the then Governor, introduced an Ordinance for repealing the Police Ordinance of 1844 and substituting another, and in doing so said it was proposed to raise the numbers, increase the pay, and better the position, comforts, and pensions of the Police Force; that from a very interesting communication on the police service he had received from Mr. CHARLES MAY, the then Superintendent, he found that the average service of a European in the police was only three months, and those who did join were principally discharged soldiers and sailors; that by the new regulations all grades below the rank of Captain and Assistant Superintendent would have to give a guarantee for five years and at the end of that term would be entitled to a free passage to the port of enlistment, if enlisted out of the colony, or to three months' pay; and if he agreed to serve another five years, that in addition to the above emoluments he would receive such pension, according to his grade, as might hereafter be decided upon; and that he (the Governor) thought by these means a much better class of men would be induced to enter the Police Force than it then contained. These expectations were fulfilled and the Police Force was in a short time raised to a respectable standard. The present Police Force Consolidation Ordinance, No. 14 of 1887, was not a revolutionary measure, but merely consolidated the Ordinance of 1862 and the supplementary Ordinances that had been passed from time to time to provide for various matters of detail as they arose. No radical change has been introduced in the service since 1862, and since that time it may be said that the Force has on the whole commanded public confidence, though it has at times been subjected to severe criticism and Commissions were appointed to inquire into its working in 1872 and 1879. It has, however, always had one weak element, namely, the Chinese contingent. In giving evidence before the 1872 Commission Mr. CHARLES MAY said:—"I made no provision in the Ordinance of 1862 for Chinese constables, as I considered them utterly untrustworthy. They are useless physically and morally. . . . Chinese should only be used as boatmen and interpreters. I would disband all the present Chinese force. I would not have a single Chinese on a beat. If you have one-third of the Force Chinese you have one-third untrustworthy. The moral effect of a policeman is very much reduced when he is a Chinese. I look upon Chinamen as a most dangerous element, though I would not say their pay is wholly thrown away. No Chinaman ever gets power without making it solely a source of profit." Not only is the Chinese contingent objectionable because of its own inefficiency and presumed corruption, but also because there is good reason to believe it is a source of contamination to the other contingents, or it at least brings suspicion upon them. How far the European members of the Force have been affected by the bribery recently brought to light must ever remain a

matter of doubt. WITCHELL is the only man against whom it has been found possible to adduce legal proof, but the whole Force rests under suspicion, though perhaps that suspicion has been needlessly exaggerated by the air of mystery and secrecy thrown over the matter by the Government. Whatever the extent of the corruption, however, we believe it is largely due to the influence of the Chinese contingent.

In the minute covering the appointment of the 1872 Commission Sir RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL wrote:—"On looking over the various despatches and the correspondence which has taken place relative to Police matters and crime during my absence on leave since April of last year, it appears to me that there has been so much misapprehension and so much misrepresentation of many facts connected with the Police and the state of crime in the Colony as to make it very desirable to appoint a Commission, which might examine all necessary witnesses and consider the papers and correspondence connected with a subject which seriously affects all classes of the community. Such a commission, if painstaking, and constituted of men in whom the public has confidence, ought to be most useful directly and indirectly." We should say that also at the present time a Commission constituted of men in whom the public has confidence would be most useful, directly and indirectly. Under the present administration, however, not much regard is paid to public opinion, and the Colonial Secretary's estimate of the European community was very frankly stated in connection with the petition for a reform of the constitution. It is held that the public has no right to concern itself with public affairs, from which also it may be inferred that it has no right to concern itself with the honesty or efficiency of the police. Some reform in the Force is, however, deemed necessary, and an officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary has been seconded to assist in bringing it about. The officer in question may be able to give very good advice, and if a commission had been appointed perhaps it could not have done better than recommend the course that has actually been adopted, but we think nevertheless that exception is to be taken to the manner in which the Government has gone about the business. It is stated that the Irish Constabulary officer's services were indented for before the recent scandal arose, and when, presumably, there was no apparent necessity for unusual haste in the matter. In that case is there any reason why the Government should not have gone to the Legislative Council and asked for the necessary vote before the expenditure was incurred, instead of spending the money first and asking the Council to vote it afterwards? It is true that when a certain course has been decided upon by the Government the opinion of the Legislature Council does not count for much, because the Government can always carry its point by the official majority, but that very fact ought to make the Government the more punctilious in following strictly the procedure laid down in the Colonial Office Regulations and submitting all expenditure to the Legislative Council before it is incurred, thus affording the unofficial members an opportunity of expressing their opinion, even if they cannot by their vote influence the ultimate result. As a matter of principle we hope that when the vote for Inspector Howe's passage and emoluments comes before the Legislative Council the unofficial members will vote against it. The Go-

vernment has no right to incur expenditure without legislative sanction, and seeing how small public rights are in this colony it is the more important that the unofficial members should not tolerate any infringement of them.

IRREGULAR FINANCE.

A peculiar side light is thrown on the methods of the Government by a paragraph which appears in the *China Mail*. The paragraph professes to have been written after inquiry and therefore may be regarded as officially inspired. Amongst other statements contained therein is one to the effect that the Government intends to use for one purpose money that has been voted for another, a vicious system of finance which can have no sanction from Downing Street and must be reprobated by the taxpayers. The public in Hongkong has few rights, but it certainly has a right to expect that the financial business of the Government shall be conducted in a straightforward manner. When the Government wants money it always has the official vote at its disposal in order to obtain it, and it cannot have even the excuse of expediency for using money for purposes other than those for which it was voted. We quote the statements of our contemporary in full:—"On inquiry we learn that the Government has received no information regarding the appointment of an officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary, though application has been made for such an officer, who will act in the place of Mr. BADELEY during his absence on leave. With reference to the statement in the *Daily Press* of this morning that a new appointment has been made without getting a money vote, we would point out that no vote will be necessary when this officer has been appointed, as there is lapsing pay available to cover his salary." As Mr. BADELEY's appointment is already filled by a *locum tenens* in the person of Mr. MACKIE we do not very well see how there can be any pay lapsing. Even assuming, however, that half the pay of the office was lapsing that would be very far from sufficient to cover the cost of bringing out District Inspector HOWE. If the lapsed pay referred to is that of the dismissed Inspectors, it is not available and cannot properly be used for any such purpose. When the legislature passed a vote for the pay of so many Inspectors, Sergeants, and Constables it did not vote the money in order to pay an officer to be specially brought out from home to reorganise the Police Force. The appointment is a new and special one and, if it is made, must be covered by a special vote. Having explained how the salary of the reorganising police official is to be met, our contemporary goes on to say:—"It is a pity a little more judgment is not exercised in certain quarters in regard to this unfortunate police affair, for there is very scant sympathy amongst the general public with the difficulties that are being placed in the way of the Government's investigations. If the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD were well advised he would refrain from any action likely to hinder justice and hamper the investigations of the Government." So far nothing has been heard of any difficulties being placed in the way of the Government's investigations. As to the advice tendered to Mr. WHITEHEAD to "refrain from any action likely to hinder justice and hamper the investigations of the Government," if the reference is to the

question the hon. gentleman asked at the meeting of the Finance Committee the other day, we fail to see its applicability. The Colonial Secretary declined to answer the question at the time, "not from any desire to withhold information," but because it "would be more regular to give notice in the usual manner, when no doubt the hon. member will receive an answer to his question." We do not know whether Mr. WHITEHEAD has adopted the suggestion of the Colonial Secretary and given notice of a question on the subject, but if so he is not likely to receive an early reply, as the meeting of Council fixed for Monday next has been adjourned *sine die*.

THE PENSION LIST.

At the last meeting of the Legislative Council the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD drew attention to the pension list and its continual increase. The official reply was that as the colony got older and public servants left year by year it necessarily followed that the pension list must increase. The reply seems very fairly to meet the case, but nevertheless pensions form an item in the estimates that requires to be scrutinised with a critical eye. In the police pensions, for instance, it might possibly be more economical and more expedient if the Indian members of the Force received a lump sum in cash on their retirement in lieu of pension, for it is not impossible that pensions may continue to be drawn in India long after the pensioner is dead. Precautions are of course taken against frauds of that kind, but whether the precautions are effective or not is another question. We find, too, that Sir E. L. O'MALLEY, who is in active service as the Chief Justice of another colony, is entered as receiving a pension of \$720 from Hongkong, that amount representing the share this colony had to pay to his total pension on his retirement some years ago. It will be remembered that Sir EDWARD got tired of his retirement in a short time and rejoined the Service, and his pension is presumably in abeyance, as pay and pension cannot be drawn at the same time. What, then, becomes of the \$720 pension put down for Sir EDWARD O'MALLEY? Presumably it comes back to the colony in some way as a refund, but it would simplify the accounts if the amount were not entered as being paid. A similar case is that of Sir G. T. M. O'BRIEN, except that he has only rejoined the Service during the present year and his name therefore properly appeared in the last estimates. Seeing that the amount cannot be drawn it would be well to strike the item out in the estimates for next year. Another point that might with advantage receive attention is the payment of pensions to persons who have retired on the ground of ill-health, but whose health has been re-established and enables them to earn an income. It is provided in the pension minute that a pension abates on the pensioner's obtaining other public employment, and by parity of reasoning it would seem that when a pensioner, having retired on the ground of ill-health, is able to take private employment some arrangement might be made, if not for the abatement of the pension, at least for its commutation. The pension minute also provides that no officer "shall have an absolute right to compensation for past services or to any pension or other allowance under this minute," and it seems to us that the payment of pensions to hale and hearty men who have retired from the service before pension age, on the ground of ill-health, is little short of a

fraud on the public. A glance down the pension list in the blue-book will show that ill-health is the most frequent cause alleged for the granting of pensions (excluding police pensions, which come under different rules) and that the pensions seem to have extraordinary curative and preservative properties. There is the Rev. W. JENNINGS, who served for a few years as Colonial Chaplain, obtained a pension on the ground of ill-health, and on his return home was able to resume his clerical duties, being now in the enjoyment of a valuable living. Another case is that of Dr. WHARRY, who draws a pension from Hongkong on the ground of ill-health and at the same time is able to carry on a lucrative private practice in California. There were, if report speaks correctly, special circumstances connected with Dr. WHARRY's retirement, the services of a very competent officer being lost to the colony more by departmental friction than by the assigned cause of ill-health. However that be, neither Dr. WHARRY nor Mr. JENNINGS, nor any other retired officer in similar circumstances is to be blamed for taking a pension if he can get it and it suits his convenience, but it is not to the public interest that pensions should be granted without sufficient cause, or that they should be continued on their original scale if they were granted on the ground of ill-health and the ill-health has been restored or is found to be less serious than was supposed.

MR. DETRING'S MEMORIAL ON MINING.

THE advice tendered by Mr. DETRING to the Tsung-li Yamen in the petition recently addressed to them contains some sound sense, but we doubt whether it would prove very acceptable to the body named. The home truths delivered and the warnings uttered would find no responsive echo among Ministers who have feathered their nests by means of commissions on contracts and fees for sale of office. The prospect of another Imperial service under the control of foreign officers on the lines of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs does not appeal to their interests or induce them to believe that the necessity is as pressing as the petitioner represents. The surrender of all patronage in the shape of mining concessions, with all the possible squeezes incident thereto, would not meet the approval of men like LI HUNG-CHANG and his pupil SHENG. Mr. DETRING must have been well aware of this fact when he framed his scheme, since he has, in past years, had a long experience of the views and methods of the late Viceroy of Chihli. Truth to tell, there is not a very hopeful ring in the petition. The writer evidently fears that his scheme will meet with scant consideration from the Central Government, but he urges it with all the arguments he can think of, being clearly bent on arousing fears for the future of the country in the minds of the Ministers. Unfortunately the members of the Tsung-li Yamen are more bent on checkmating each other or on forwarding their own pet projects than they are desirous for the welfare of the Empire. Few of the mandarins possess any really patriotic feeling for their country. They are proud of their literature, their civilization—such as it is—and of the eighteen provinces, which they believe to be the most favoured land in the whole globe, but they have no pride of nationality in the same sense that Western peoples have, and will not make the same sacrifices for it. Moreover, they seem to share the fatalism of the Turk, and are content to allow matters to drift rather than to

face a present difficulty, being always inspired (Micawber like) with a lively hope that something will turn up to avert from them defeat, disaster, or ruin. Nor do they altogether relish being told plain truths, and in all probability the statements made by Mr. DETRING will touch some of the Ministers on a sore spot, notably his former patron LI HUNG-CHANG.

Yet there is sound advice in Mr. DETRING's memorial, if they would only see it. That the Chinese Government require more money cannot be gainsaid, and it is equally apparent that little more can be raised on existing securities. As Mr. DETRING points out, the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, managed by Western officials, has yielded a very large and annually increasing revenue. It has also furnished the chief security upon which China has been able to borrow. But the limit of China's available securities has been reached. Why, then, not tap the wealth that lies under the soil in a business-like and methodical manner? There is gold in Shantung, copper in Yunnan; hematite in Fukien, coal in half a dozen provinces, and Chihli and Manchuria are very rich in minerals. Mr. DETRING asserts that both coal and iron abound in the vicinity of Shanhaikwan, and that the ore is equal to that found in Germany. He then draws attention to the necessity of proceeding to work them with discretion, and instances CHANG CHIH-TUNG's mistake in getting ore for the ironworks at Hanyang and then being obliged to import coal wherewith to smelt it, raising the cost of the smelted iron to the price of the imported article. The illustration is a noteworthy one, as it is a striking commentary upon the stubborn determination of an ignorant official to "gang his ain gait." Apart, however, from the errors sure to follow on inexperience and lack of technical knowledge, the working of mines in China can never be carried on profitably under native management, though no doubt ore could be won from alluvial diggings very readily by Chinese miners. When it comes to reefs of quartz, seams of coal, and veins of lead, copper, &c., the Chinese officials would neither have the courage nor the enterprise necessary to ensure success in deep mining. At Charters Towers, where the mines worked are earning good dividends, the quartz is not rich, and the mining Companies do not hesitate to sink from 1,000 to 2,000 feet to strike it. Only by sheer pluck and audacity have these mines been made the success they now are. Chinese would think a long time before sinking 500 feet, much less 2,000 feet, in search of a lode, especially when the results are to say the least problematical. Moreover, the capital would be wasted in the employment of unnecessary labour and in the purchase of unsuitable machinery on which a fat commission was obtainable. To ensure the mines proving the source of wealth they ought to become, therefore, they should be placed under Western management. Mr. DETRING is right to the hilt, when he hints—very broadly—that there is danger to China in entrusting too much power to one man, and that the country is already most seriously pledged to certain foreign Powers by the policy adopted in raising loans for her railway. If the mines were worked under a foreign directorate China might soon get free of her liabilities and in a few years regain her independence of action.

At present she is tied hand and foot to Russia, by the undertaking for the construction of the railways in Manchuria. These are to be made by Russia and worked in conjunction with the great Trans-Siber-

ian line for a term of years. A proviso to the treaty secures, it is true, to China the right to take over the railways eventually; but in ten years much may happen. Mr. DETRING is clearly of opinion that by contracting a loan with Belgium, the Chinese Government have only complicated matters and rendered their position more desperate. He says, after pointing out that Belgium is not a likely country to lend a large sum of money:—"The French really are the masters in this business, and the Russians help them, and so SHENG has been able to arrange his loan with Belgium. This matter is now settled, but China's danger is ever present. For instance, the Russian railway is to communicate with Manchuria, and French railways will connect with Lungchow. France has had her eye on Hankow for many years. The North and South are very distant, but they are opposite each other. Their object is to obtain the central portion of China. At present the money and name are Belgian, but really it is France and Russia who are assisting in its completion. These two countries now possess all the advantages of this plan and leave China only one chance. When the time arrives and they see China occupied elsewhere, then will be their opportunity." There is a good deal of truth in these suggestions, though possibly France may be credited with greater ambitions than she really entertains. Still it is well for China to be on the alert instead of drifting towards difficulties which may end in her dismemberment. If the Chinese Government are relying on the jealousies of the Powers to continue the *status quo* in spite of financial embarrassments and breaches of treaty innumerable they may discover, when too late, that they have been trusting to a rope of sand. The jealousies of the different Powers have no doubt so far prevented any of them developing a taste for territorial aggrandisement at China's expense, but it does not follow that this cause will endure. If mandarin misrule becomes too gross, and the infractions of the treaties too incessant, it is quite within the bounds of probability that the Powers, for the protection of their own interests, yearly increasing in the Central Kingdom, may compose their differences and agree to divide and rule. If there is no security under Chinese rule, why should the Powers go on propping up an effete administration when they can readily govern the country themselves? Let the Tsung-li Yamen therefore take note. If there is no patriotism in Peking, and if all power is to be centred in such a man as SHENG, then indeed Mr. DETRING's comparison that China is in the position of one drowning has force. There is no reason why she should expect a saviour to appear from outside if none of her own sons has sufficient patriotism to go to the rescue. The real danger to China lies within her own borders, in the corruption and lethargy of her own administrators.

A German mining engineer is reported to have found a rich mineral deposit at a place called Paimiao (White Temple) in Tientsin prefecture, and has succeeded in interesting the gentry and people of the place to purchase machinery for developing the mine. But what kind of a mineral the mine in question contains rumour sayeth not, but at any rate, the engineer has been commissioned to buy the necessary machinery from Germany and he is proceeding personally to Europe for that purpose. Much secrecy appears to be observed in connection with the enterprise at present, but from indications there is no doubt that a large sum of money has been subscribed for developing the property.—*N. C. Daily News*.

LEKIN AND THE SECURITY FOR THE JAMESON-HOOLEY LOAN.

Telegraphing on the 16th August with reference to the HOOLEY-JAMESON loan, the Shanghai correspondent of the *Times* says:—"Regarding the right of foreign control of the lekin the preliminary agreement contains nothing definite, the matter being the subject of separate negotiations. SHENG's offer amounts to a permission to the syndicate to appoint a controller to supervise the audit of the lekin receipts at the Imperial Bank—an utterly valueless control. If the loan is advanced on the security of the lekin without administrative control, the results will be prejudicial to trading interests, because it will entail an increase in provincial exactions. The Chinese Government is using every endeavour to avoid such control. The competition of the syndicates is so keen that they may be indifferent on this point and thus give the Chinese the opportunity they desire." It would be indeed disastrous if the lekin revenues were accepted as security for any foreign loan to China unless the collection were placed under foreign control, for it would simply mean that attempts would be made to impose extra squeezes to meet the charges for the loan. Under foreign control the lekin revenue could be vastly increased without any raising of the duty, but under corrupt native control the latter is the only means by which the extra amount required could be made good, and it is doubtful how far even that course would be successful, for the squeezes are already so oppressive that the trade could not stand much more. For their own sake it is to be hoped those who may accommodate China with a loan will insist upon foreign control of the lekin collectorate, and still more is that course to be hoped for in the interests of foreign trade, which would speedily show large expansion were the charges upon foreign goods collected in an honest and uniform manner, so that traders might know exactly what they would have to pay and be able to make their calculations accordingly.

In an article on Chinese Railways and Finance, which appeared a few days before the telegram above referred to, the *Times*, discussing the security for a loan, said:—"The revenue is, of course, capable of indefinite extension, but extension must take place along the line of least resistance, and this, there can be little doubt, will be found in placing the native Customs at the treaty ports under the control of the Imperial Customs. Other schemes suggested, such as the collection of the land tax or of the salt gabelle or the rearrangement of the likin, are scarcely practicable unless the Government can be regarded as strong enough to face a revolution. But in the case of the native Customs the fewest vested interests will be interfered with, the direction can be most easily controlled, and there is already a precedent in the case of the two ports Kowloon and Lappa, where for some years past the native Customs and other duties have been collected for the Viceroy at Canton by the Imperial Maritime Customs. The regime thus introduced has worked smoothly, has given satisfaction to the merchants, and has improved trade. Duties are fixed in amount and collected according to a known tariff received from the Hopo at Canton. Now, in these two stations worked under foreign control during 1896 a revenue was collected of 989,500 taels. In all other

native Customs stations on the coast of China, where the gigantic trade carried in native bottoms was handled, the revenue returned to the Government in the same time was 1,000,000 taels, a revenue which under similar foreign administration could be increased fifty-fold." It would of course be an excellent thing if the Native Customs were placed under foreign control, especially for China herself, but its effect on foreign trade would be insignificant as compared with that of foreign control over the lekin collection. Kowloon, Lappa, and Canton are the only ports where the Chinese Customs have to take cognizance of any considerable amount of foreign trade carried in Chinese bottoms. Elsewhere the trade carried by junks is almost exclusively a coasting trade, the goods being conveyed simply from one Chinese port to another, and such of the goods as are of foreign origin have already paid import duty at the treaty ports. It is true that there is some little trade from Hongkong to other ports than Canton, Kowloon, and Lappa carried on by native craft, but it would not aggregate anything like the amount passing those stations. Important, therefore, as foreign control over the Native Customs may be, it is nothing like so important as the control of the lekin collection would be, for goods are never completely safe from lekin until they have actually entered into consumption. If the syndicate making the new loan to China secures foreign control over the collection of lekin the advantages resulting to China and her foreign trade will be immense.

BRITISH TRADE WITH RUSSIA AND SIBERIA.

We recently referred to the desirability of appointing a British Consul to Vladivostock in order that British trade might be kept officially informed of the remarkable development of Siberia now in progress. From the other side of Russia comes a Consular complaint of the apathy and indifference of British merchants in pushing trade in that country. We refer to the report of Her Majesty's Consul at Warsaw, a summary of which may be found in the *Board of Trade Journal* received by the last mail. The report in its summarised form is well worth reproduction:—

"H.M. Consul at Warsaw, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated July 22nd last, reports the opening at Warsaw of a new factory for the enamelling of iron goods for household use, the director being a Belgian, the manager a Frenchman. The capital of the company is £75,000 in 6,000 shares of £12 10s. each; these have been subscribed in Belgium. There are also being started in the district of Warsaw at the present time the first electrical works, with a capital of £200,000, most of which is in German hands, the technical engineer being also a German. One of the largest German firms of aniline dyers has just obtained a concession for operating in Russia. New cotton works, with a capital of £200,000, have just been started at Lodz, the centre of the cotton and wool industry in the Warsaw district. The capital is divided into 4,000 shares of £50 each, which have been taken up by Germans already. At Lowicz, chemical works have been started by Belgians, with a capital of £60,000 in shares of £25 each, five out of the seven managers being either Belgians or Frenchmen. Belgians, French, and Germans have, the Consul states, almost a monopoly of commercial enterprise in Russia. There would appear to be no difficulty

in obtaining capital in those countries, and especially in Belgium, for any really sound enterprise in Russia, but it appears to be as difficult to draw British capital to Russia as it is to induce British manufacturers to do business in a way to suit the local market. During the last six years 200,000,000 francs of Belgian capital have been invested in Russia, on much of which (for instance, the iron works at Ekaterinoslav, which were offered to and refused by an English syndicate) they are getting 40 per cent. interest. Russia is a country only partially developed in every way, and requiring foreign help for a long time to come to complete her development. That foreign help she is prepared to pay well for, and it appears a great pity that Great Britain should stand back and let other countries do the work and take the profits.

"Before the expansion and development of British colonies, the overflow from England of British capital and enterprise was forced to find an outlet in foreign countries, but now that it can find room for itself in the colonies, where business is done in an English way in the English language, it is not so keen about foreign trade with its special local requirements. Moreover, at the period referred to, foreigners had no other country to which to apply, as Great Britain alone had spare capital to help in the development of another country as well as perfected manufactures with which no other country could compete. Foreigners were, therefore, obliged to apply to England and to obtain British capital and goods on whatever terms British merchants chose to ask. Now, however, the old order has changed; French, Germans, and Belgians offer capital and goods on terms more favourable than Englishmen find it worth while to accept, whilst the British appetite for foreign trade is spoilt by the field offered by the colonies. All the same it is a pity to deliberately throw away so fair a field for enterprise as Russia will be for many years to come. It is to be hoped that there is still to be found in England the old spirit of enterprise which founded that English company in Russia some 300 years ago, which, under the names of 'The Russia Company' and 'The English Factory,' had for so long a monopoly of foreign trade with Russia.

"The Consul concludes as follows:—We cannot now make sure of getting, as of old, 30 or 40 per cent. on our own terms, but there is plenty of room for capital in business which would give a safe 10 to 20 per cent., and there is room also for imported goods if we care to manufacture them to suit our buyers, and to sell them on terms as favourable as those offered by other nations. Many British firms, when told that to do business in Russia 4 or 6 or even 8 months' credit must be given, reply, 'Oh! we are not money-lenders.' But this is not money-lending, it is the way in which business in this country is done."

Whether the Consul's explanation of the decline of British trade with Russia be the correct one or not, the fact remains that the trade of a rich field has been allowed to fall into the hands of our commercial rivals, and there seems every prospect, unfortunately, of the rapidly expanding trade of Siberia being allowed to go the same way. The task of developing the resources of that magnificent territory is beyond the power of the Russians themselves and there will therefore be abundant room for outside capital and population. Why should not the English merchant step in and take his share of the profits of the trade? The

language no doubt presents a difficulty. An Englishman who speaks only his own language is utterly lost and useless at Vladivostok and cannot make himself understood even as regards his most ordinary every-day requirements. With a knowledge of French or German something may possibly be done, but for the really successful conduct of a business enterprise acquaintance with the Russian language is essential. If any aspiring junior in Hongkong or the Coast Ports wishes to discover a ready means to success he would probably find the study of Russian, with a view to the establishment of an agency or firm in Siberia, a useful stepping stone. A new country is opening up there to which all interested in the spread of British trade might with advantage direct their attention. One of the first steps to be taken, however, is the appointment of a duly qualified Consul. Formerly the rule was to let the Consul follow the trade, but with our more modern ideas the appointment of Consuls to prepare the way for trade does not seem an inadvisable measure. The openings for trade in Russia itself, to which the Consul at Warsaw attaches so much value, are hardly more important than those which will soon be available in Siberia, and in the latter country the field is more open. We would again urge the subject on the attention of the local branch of the China Association.

THE MANCHURIAN RAILWAYS AND FOREIGN TRADE.

In a recent article in the *Times* the suggestion is thrown out that as the management of the railway throughout Manchuria is to be entirely in Russian hands, and as the Company, as a private association, will be in a position to fix and levy any tariff that suits the policy of its patrons, British trade, or that of any other Power, may, in spite of the most favoured nation clause, be effectively excluded by differential treatment from the future markets of Manchuria. It is not the first time that this view has been put forward, but the fear expressed appears to us unfounded. It would be a novelty to find a railway company discriminating against goods according to their country of origin, and it may be taken for granted that the Manchurian railways, like railways in every other part of the world, will be anxious to get all the traffic they can, without considering the origin of the goods carried. If a railway company had to maintain a Customs establishment of its own and tried to enforce a protective policy the prospect of its success as a commercial undertaking would be very remote. Even if political considerations were placed before commercial ones the result would be much the same, for Russia would not only get little credit for establishing railways that were commercial failures but her prestige and influence would be seriously impaired by her want of success in the role she has adopted. Russia has little trade of her own with which to feed the railways and would make but a poor showing even with the aid of France. So much for the inherent improbability of the Russian company adopting the policy attributed to it. But assuming the existence of a desire to adopt such a suicidal course, it is by no means clear that it would be tolerated by the Powers. There are provisions in the treaties against the establishment of monopolies, and a railway that charged differential rates according to the origin or destination of the goods carried would be a monopoly of the most objectionable description. It is also to be supposed

that with the establishment of railways in China laws for their control will be introduced, as in all other countries where railways are in existence; and it is incredible that the charging of differential rates would ever be legalised, that being a device which, so far as we are aware, has never yet been resorted to, even by the most rabidly protectionist countries.

THE COTTON TRADE IN LANCA-SHIRE AND CHINA.

That there should be depression in the Lancashire cotton trade at the present time can surprise no one, and the announcement made by Reuter that two of the largest firms in Preston are working short time, and that five thousand looms are affected, will excite no astonishment with exchange at its present level. That "the outlook is gloomy" goes without saying, for not only is there the exchange difficulty to face, but there are very patent indications of, in the not distant future, the transference, in great part, of this manufacture to the silver using countries of Eastern Asia. The factories in course of construction in China and those projected in Hongkong will inevitably subtract considerably from the market for Lancashire goods. Exchange has for years been restricting demand in Asia by driving the natives to again have resort to the rough produce of their own hand-loom, but the erection of great cotton spinning and weaving mills fitted with the latest English machinery will of course result in closing the Chinese market to certain makes of Lancashire goods, which will be unable to compete with locally made cottons.

The Japanese are already beginning to suspect that their trade with China is going to be injuriously affected by the change of their standard. Although so short a time has elapsed since the change was decided upon—and before it has been actually effected—there is a feeling in some directions in Japan that a mistake has been made. The following, from the *Chungai Shogyo*, gives utterance to this impression:—"Since March last the free coinage of silver has been suspended as a preliminary to the operation of the gold standard and the value of silver yen has gradually risen. The result has been a considerable rise in the rate of exchange at Shanghai and that has brought about a decline upon the China trade. This is what we previously mentioned and it has now been realised. Indeed the realization has been far greater than the expectation. The export of cotton yarn is now found to be unprofitable, and the Japanese yarn which had become able to compete with the Bombay is about to be driven out of the Shanghai market altogether. Matches also are no longer found profitable to export, and the Guild in Hyogo have now decided to suspend exporting them from 1st Sept. Probably all the other articles of export would have met with the same fate. And should the appreciation of gold and the depreciation of silver further continue, all possibility of recommencing the export trade with the Central Kingdom will be lost in the future. The worst sufferers by the collapse of the trade with China will be the dealers in marine products. The loss and inconvenience they sustain at this moment are much greater than they experienced when Japan was at war with China in 1894-95." Possibly the writer's views have slightly coloured his vaticinations, but there can be little doubt that the Japanese export trade will for a time be

adversely affected by her currency change; unless, indeed, silver should speedily recover a portion of its lost value.

What is bad for others, however, and is in many ways exceedingly awkward for all engaged in trade in the Far East, will not prove entirely without compensation for this Colony and China. The establishment of various industries will follow and many goods which are now imported will in time become articles of export. Cotton mills will be followed by other industries; already a flour mill has been erected in Shanghai and a feather dressing factory is about to be started. Labour is cheap here, there are no taxes on machinery, no registration duties, no customs, land is fairly cheap, and the cost of building not excessive. In Hongkong, too, there is entire freedom from mandarin interference, which will count for something with Chinese capitalists. The factories already in existence here have thriven, and there is no reason to doubt that others will prove equally remunerative. Moreover, the Colony is most favourably situated for the distribution of goods not only to China but to Indo-China, Siam, Borneo, the Philippines, Australia, &c. There is plenty of room—although little level ground—for a great industrial development, and we are not without hope that a rectification of the Colony's boundaries may be secured at no very distant date, when further scope for growth will be given. The present is no doubt an important period of its history, marking the juncture when it will assume importance as an industrial as well as a distributing centre.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE SILVER QUESTION.

(15th September.)

Is there still a chance for silver? It would almost seem so, from the report that the Bank of England has consented to hold one-fifth of its reserve in that metal. Reuter's telegram states that the Bank refuses either to confirm, deny, or explain the report, from which it would appear that whether it is correct in details or not there must be something in it, as there would have been no hesitation in denying it had it been wholly unfounded. Accepting it as true then, what does it portend? The holding by the Bank of England of a certain proportion of its reserve in silver would in itself have little influence upon the market. The Government of the United States has vaults upon vaults full of silver, but the price steadily declined while the monthly purchases were being made and has not been supported by the enormous holding. Neither would a large holding by the Bank of England support the price. It is only free coinage that is at all likely to support or enhance the value of the white metal; and that enhancement would take place under the influence of free coinage is clearly proved by the readiness with which the market responds to the slightest rumour of an international agreement on the subject. But England, we take it, is not going to abandon the gold standard, and the holding of a certain proportion of the Bank's reserve in silver probably represents all that she is prepared to do towards the restoration and maintenance of the double standard, except as regards her action in India. If other nations choose to restore bimetalism India would no doubt gladly fall in with the scheme, and the holding of a large quantity of silver by the Bank of England might be accepted by the other powers as a guarantee that England, while herself adhering to the

gold standard, would not enter upon any course calculated to discredit silver in the future. If it be true that the Bank is willing to hold a portion of its reserve in that metal it must be upon conditions, those conditions being that action of some kind is to be taken by other powers. The report now current would seem to indicate that the negotiations set on foot by the American delegates are considered to promise some practical result. We hope it may be so, but it would be well not to be too sanguine as to the ratio that is likely to be fixed should an international agreement be arrived at, for it is much more likely to be thirty to one than fifteen and a half to one. Stability at any price would, however, be a great boon to trade between the East and West, for trade can adopt itself to any ratio, but is seriously hampered by constant fluctuations.

THE JAMESON-HOOLEY LOAN.

THE AGREEMENT SIGNED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS,"]

Shanghai, 19th September, 7.57 p.m.

Mr. Frosell, the Agent of the Jameson-Hooley Syndicate, signed the agreement for a loan of £16,000,000 with Sheng on Saturday and proceeds to Peking to-morrow to ratify it.

An Imperial edict in identical terms has been issued at Peking, except that the discount is 94 instead of 95.

The Syndicate has secured the construction and financing of the Shanghai and Nanking Railway with extension into Honan, likewise the Soochow-Hangchow Railway, together with coal mining privileges in Honan in conjunction with Chinese.

Major Jameson, M.P., accompanied by English engineers, is expected early in 1898 to make surveys and arrange details for the railway construction.

SUPREME COURT.

18th September.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ADMINISTERING A DRUG.

Wong Kut was charged with administering a stupefying drug to a girl in a house at Shauiwan and with stealing a gold ring and a gold hair-pin from her whilst she was under the influence of the drug.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General) prosecuted, being instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny (Crown Solicitor). The prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was undefended.

The following were the jurors:—Messrs. J. A. M. Brugmann, P. F. do Rozario, C. A. Stuhlmann, A. I. Madar, P. J. W. Suedhaus, D. M. Langrana, and Ng Pak To.

The drug administered was *datura alba* and after the prisoner had been found guilty his Lordship pointed out the highly dangerous nature of the offence and said that if the girl had died prisoner would have been hanged. Sentence of three years' imprisonment with hard labour was passed.

15th September.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT—SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CHEUNG YAU TO AND OTHERS, APPELLANTS, V. THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED, RESPONDENTS.

The appellants moved for leave to appeal to the Privy Council from a judgment given by the Full Court on the 7th September last. The motion was made *ex parte*.

Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Denny) appeared for the appellants.

Mr. Robinson said he moved for leave to appeal to Her Majesty in Council from a decree given in this suit by the Full Court on the 7th September last dismissing the appeal of the defendants (appellants) from the decision of the Chief Justice delivered on the 21st December, 1896. It would be for their Lordships to decide what security should be given by the appellants for the prosecution of the appeal.

The Chief Justice inquired if Mr. Robinson was asking for an absolute order or for an order to show cause.

Mr. Robinson said he was applying for an absolute order for the appeal to be made at the expiration of three months subject to compliance with the instructions.

The Chief Justice referred counsel to a case heard in Hongkong in 1885, in which the Chief Justice, on an application of this kind, said that notice must in future be given to the other side. He (Sir John) and his learned brother were inclined to think that an order might be made *ex parte*, but as a rule had been laid down it would be better to adhere to it.

Mr. Robinson referred to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank v. Forbes case, in which an application for leave to appeal to the Privy Council was made *ex parte*. That case was more recent than 1885. Doubtless Mr. Francis, as *amicus curie*, could tell their Lordships what was the practice.

Mr. Francis, who was in Court at the time, said that to the best of his recollection the rule laid down in 1885 had not been followed.

The Chief Justice said he quite agreed that an application like this ought to be made *ex parte*, but the ruling of the Court had to be considered.

Mr. Francis thought the application a perfectly regular one. He had never known that rule followed.

The Chief Justice said their Lordships were quite clear that, the rule not having been followed, this application could be made *ex parte*. Leave to appeal would be granted subject to the appellants complying with instructions. The amount of security would be settled in Chambers.

20th September.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT—SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

YEUNG SAM, APPELLANT, V. CHAN A. TONG, RESPONDENT.

This case came up on an order calling upon the respondent to show cause why the appellant should not be at liberty to appeal from the judgment of the Puisse Judge delivered in the Summary Court on the 6th September.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Looker), appeared for the appellant and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny) for the respondent.

Mr. Robinson said he made no opposition to the order being made.

The Chief Justice explained that it was proposed to argue the matter out on this rule.

Mr. Robinson said he had no objection to the case being heard then provided his friend opened the case, so that he (Mr. Robinson) would have the advantage of knowing what were the arguments in opposition to the judgment delivered.

Mr. Francis said he had no objection to opening the case as it gave him, and not his friend, the right of reply.

Mr. Francis then opened the case. He said the suit was brought in the court below by Chan A Tong, who, under an agreement with the Government, has the sole privilege of cutting stone on Crown land at Kowloon, against the defendant, Yeung Sam. The claim was for \$300 damages for the infringement by the defendant of the plaintiff's right to quarry granite in British Kowloon under an agreement dated 24th December, 1896, and made between the plaintiff of the one part and H.E. the Governor of the other part. Plaintiff also claimed his costs of suit. From the evidence taken it appeared that the plaintiff claimed to be entitled to the exclusive right to quarry granite in

British Kowloon, and he appeared to have, on the face of the agreement, the exclusive right to quarry granite in a certain limited number of quarries in Kowloon which were marked on the plan and signed by an officer of the Public Works Department and also by the plaintiff. Defendant had the right to quarry granite in Kowloon, not in any portion of the quarries assigned by the Government to the plaintiff, but on some portions of British Kowloon which were not included in the contract rights given to the plaintiff. It was alleged that in consequence of the defendant having quarried the stone he had deprived the plaintiff of what plaintiff alleged to be his right to get a certain fee or royalty in respect of all stone quarried in Kowloon. The plaintiff asserted that under his agreement with the Government he had an exclusive right not merely to quarry stone in the particular quarries in respect of which the right was granted to him, but also a right to levy on persons quarrying stone in Kowloon a certain royalty in respect of the stone quarried. Counsel admitted that if that right existed in the plaintiff so as to effect the defendant there was an infringement of that right by the defendant. Therefore there was no dispute as to the facts. The defendant paid no royalty to the plaintiff and it was therefore for the plaintiff to establish his exclusive right to quarry granite in British Kowloon. The only document put forward in support of the plaintiff's case was a contract between himself and the Government dated 24th December, 1896. That document professed to be an agreement between the plaintiff and the Government, but in that agreement there was no specific grant of any description. The agreement was not made under any Imperial law or local Ordinance whatever. There was no law which empowered the Government to grant any sole privileges or to farm out these quarries or to deal with them in any way as, for instance, the Government was authorized to do under a special Ordinance of the colony in respect of raw and prepared opium. The agreement had to stand or fall according to common law.

The Chief Justice—The agreement does not purport, not could it purport, to confer a monopoly of granite at Kowloon: it only purports to deal with granite belonging to the Crown at Kowloon.

Mr. Francis said it gave the sole privilege of farming for a period of twelve months, commencing from 1st January, 1897, within an area marked on the plan and belonging to the Government.

The Chief Justice—Do you contend that the Government cannot, at common law, deal with these granite quarries in that way?

Mr. Francis—Certainly it can, but not so as to confer on an individual any rights over and against a third party except in respect of the specific area mentioned and referred to in the plans. The Government have granted this man the exclusive right to quarry granite in certain defined areas: that they can do.

Continuing, counsel submitted that the property was not properly created because it could be created only by deed. No right could be given to the plaintiff as against a third party outside the area within which his exclusive privilege extended. Section 9 of the agreement, which the plaintiff had relied upon, said that all other quarries, beyond those outside the defined area, and the right to work them, were reserved by the Government. The defendant had infringed no right and had been guilty of no wrong whatever as regards Chan A Tong. If Chan A Tong had a remedy it must be against the Government. The agreement was imperfectly and badly drawn and it gave no exclusive right as against the defendant to quarry granite in Kowloon. The document was really a licence to Chan A Tong to cut granite in certain specified quarries in Kowloon. There was a direct undertaking by the Government that they would not themselves use the other quarries except for public purpose and an implied undertaking that they would not allow anyone else to work the quarries. If the plaintiff had any right it was against the Government for not taking proper precautions in seeing that no one else quarried granite in any other quarries in Kowloon.

Mr. Robinson, on behalf of the respondent, said the issue was whether the agreement of the

24th December, 1896, gave the respondent the sole right to quarry granite or to farm granite quarries for private purposes in British Kowloon. If it did give that right then he contended that the defendant had infringed the right; if it did not the plaintiff could have no claim against the defendant. The agreement was not a licence; it gave the right to farm the quarries. Nor was it a monopoly. The whole question resolved itself into the construction of the contract. Had the right been conferred? If it had not the plaintiff's case fell to the ground; if it had the right had been infringed. Counsel admitted that the agreement was inaccurately drawn.

The Chief Justice—You think some unlearned person drew it?

Mr. Francis—The office coolie drew it, probably. (Laughter).

Mr. Robinson said he did not know who drew it. The form had perhaps been handed down from generation to generation and, like many old precedents, was bad. All this land belonged to the Government, who alone could give the right to anyone else. Therefore, by reserving to itself only and for a specific purpose only the right to quarry the stone, it excluded all other persons from such a right and gave the sole right to Chan A Tong. Chan A Tong had paid not only for right to quarry granite in certain defined areas but also on the understanding that it was exclusively his right.

Mr. Francis, in reply, submitted that the words "sole privilege" in the agreement were exclusively confined to certain defined quarries. It was not the sole privilege of quarrying granite in Kowloon, but the sole privilege of farming the quarries within the area coloured on the plans. As to the meaning of the word "farm" counsel said it meant that Chan A Tong farmed the quarry to be work at a profit on paying rent. He had the privilege of farming from the Government and not of farming out to other people. There had been no trespass, no tort, committed by the defendant against the plaintiff, and if the plaintiff had a remedy it was only against the Government.

The Chief Justice—We both think in this case that the right of the matter is with the respondent. He has suffered a wrong, but we will take time to consider whether there are any technical reasons why that right should not be maintained.

15th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

STOLTERFOHT AND HAGEN v. THE HONG KONG SHUN LOONG.

His Lordship delivered judgment in the above suit, in which plaintiffs sought to recover \$1,000 damages for failure to take delivery of matches ordered by the defendant firm.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Bowley), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. Looker) for the defendants.

His Lordship—This suit was brought in the Original Jurisdiction to recover \$1,291.21 on a specially endorsed writ, being, according to the writ, "the balance of the price of goods bargained and sold by the plaintiffs to the defendant on March 13th and 17th, 1896, of which the defendants agreed to take delivery within two months after the arrival of each parcel in Hongkong, paying cash on delivery. The said goods arrived in Hongkong on or before Sept. 29th, 1896, and the defendants were duly notified of such arrival, but the defendants, having failed to take delivery within the contract time, plaintiffs sold the said goods after notifying the defendants of their intention to do so." Then follow particulars of the claim. The suit was then transferred, on the plaintiffs reducing their claim to \$1,000, to the Summary Jurisdiction of this Court. Fortunately in this case, the facts as stated by the witnesses for the plaintiffs are admitted or not disputed by the defendants. The facts are as follows, and, as there are two transactions in dispute in this case, it will be well to take them separately.—About March 7th, 1896, the plaintiffs got an order for 400 cases of coloured

matches through a broker, from the defendants. The plaintiffs then, by their salesman, filled up two documents (exhibit 1) in practically identical terms. They both had the same indent numbers and date. The first stated that the defendants had ordered from the plaintiffs certain goods as specified therein, to arrive at certain dates, and the second stated that the same goods had been ordered by the plaintiffs for the defendants to arrive at the same dates. The first was chopped by the defendants and kept by the plaintiffs and the second was signed by the plaintiffs and kept by the defendants. Some time after the broker went to the plaintiffs and stated that the defendants wished the Chinese hong name put on the matches. This was agreed to and at sometime, though it is not quite clear when, the plaintiffs added the words "with Chinese hong name" to the document already chopped by the defendants and kept by the plaintiffs, though, for some unexplained reason, they did not do so to the other document. The plaintiffs then wired to their correspondents at home, and, on receiving a reply that the order could be filled, they communicated with the defendants, and the salesman of the plaintiffs wrote "Settled, 13/3/96, J.B.," on each of the two documents, and the broker took away and brought back with the signature of the defendant firm on it, the one which had been previously chopped by them and which the plaintiffs retained. It must be presumed, of course, that the other document with the words "Settled, 13/3/96, J.B.," was returned to the defendants as they produced it at the trial. So far with regard to the first transaction. With reference to the second transaction the facts appear to be as follows. About February 29th, 1896, the plaintiffs got an order for 300 cases of "Brilliant" matches at \$30 a case from the defendants. The plaintiffs then, as in the previous transaction, by their salesman, filled in two documents as before (Exhibit 2). The indent number (8652) was the same, and, though the dates vary, no objection was raised to this at the trial. The first stated that the defendants had ordered from the plaintiffs certain goods as specified therein to arrive at certain dates, and the second stated that the same goods had been ordered by the plaintiffs for the defendants, to arrive at the same dates. The first was chopped by the defendants and kept by the plaintiffs, and the second signed by the plaintiffs and kept by the defendants. Certain alterations were afterwards made in these two documents. After the plaintiffs had telegraphed home 300 cases was altered to 200 and the price from \$30 to \$30.50 but these alterations do not affect the present case. There was also another alteration about 7 or 10 days, to which no objection was taken by counsel for the defendants. However, on March 17th, 1896, after having heard from Europe, the plaintiffs, by their salesman, altered the dates of arrival on the document chopped by the defendants from "June, July, August," to "August, September, 1896 or sooner if possible about 60 per month." But on the document signed by the plaintiffs he only altered the dates of arrival to "August or sooner if possible." Having made these alterations he wrote "17/3/96, Settled, J.B.," on each document. So much for the second transaction. It may be mentioned here that both exhibits (1 and 2) contain a clause to the following effect:—"If respective parcels do not arrive in Hongkong within the periods respectively mentioned, either party to be at liberty, without rendering themselves liable in damages, to rescind this contract as regards the parcels not arriving in time, but no further." Of the 400 cases it was proved and admitted that the whole amount arrived in due time and with the Chinese Hong name, and that notice of such arrival was duly given to the defendants and that they took delivery of and paid for 150 cases but failed to take delivery of the balance. With reference to the 200 cases it was admitted by the plaintiffs that only 165 had arrived by the end of May and they make no claim for the other 35 cases which arrived later. Of these 165 the plaintiffs also admitted that only 14 cases bore the indent number 8,652, but they stated (and it is not disputed) that the matches tendered were otherwise of a similar description and quality as those ordered. The defendants were duly notified of the arrival of the 165 cases, and they actually took delivery of 50 cases and paid for them. About November, 1896, it was

arranged between the plaintiffs and defendants that as the market had fallen the plaintiffs should hold over the balance of the matches until March, 1897; that the defendants should pay to the plaintiffs the sum of \$1,000 on the general account and this sum was duly paid. In March, 1897, however, the defendants would not take delivery of the balance of the matches, and the matches were properly sold by the plaintiffs, the nett proceeds of the sale showing a balance against the defendants of \$1,791.21, reduced, as I have said before, to \$1,000 for the purpose of bringing this suit in this branch of the Court. Such are the facts of the case, and it cannot be denied that the defendants are entitled to their strict legal rights and nothing more. It is clear that they are trying to wriggle out of their legal liabilities on a purely technical plea simply because the market has gone against them. I am happy to say this course of conduct is exceedingly rare amongst Chinese merchants, who, as far as my experience goes, face their losses to the bitter end. For the plaintiffs Mr. Francis contended that exhibits 1 and 2 were not contracts, and that the two documents comprised in each exhibit were not analogous to bought and sold notes, and that one was simply an order and the other a copy of it—in fact, as I understand it, that each exhibit was merely an indent. He further contended that, if it was necessary to hold that there was a contract, the portion of exhibits 1 and 2 retained by the plaintiffs formed complete contracts as being signed by both parties. However, I do not agree with that view, as, in my opinion, both papers in each exhibit must stand or fall together; in other words, that they were in the nature of a contract or that they were not. Mr. Slade, for the defendants, argued that exhibits 1 and 2 were intended for contracts and in the nature of bought and sold notes, and that being so, the variations as to description and time between the documents were material, and being material that the contracts were void. He further argued that if the contracts were void on the above grounds, the subsequent acceptance of a portion of the goods and the payment of \$1,000 was no ratification, as the goods were accepted and the payment made under the mistaken assumption that the contracts were binding; and he quoted several cases in support of his agreement (*Sievwright v. Archibald*, 17 Ad. & Ell. 103, *Grant v. Fletcher*, 5 Bam. & Cress. 436, *Gregson v. Ruck*, 4 Ad. & Ell. 737). I am of opinion that supposing exhibits 1 and 2 can be held to have the effect of contracts, the variance between the several documents was material and that the contracts were void, and that in such case the subsequent acceptance and payment under a mistaken assumption form no ratification. Mr. Slade further contended that even if his argument failed, yet that with regard to the 200 cases his clients would only be liable for 14, as it was admitted that only 14 bore the indent No. 8,652. In other words, that the goods bearing that number were earmarked and allocated to the defendants immediately on the chopping and signature of exhibit 2. However, I do not agree with this argument, as I think the indent number is merely a reference number, and that the plaintiffs were entitled to tender any goods provided they agreed with the conditions as to time, quality, and description. It seems, therefore, to me that the question is—What is the effect of the documents comprised in exhibits 1 and 2? Are they binding contracts or are they indents or orders? Now an indent for goods to arrive is not a contract by itself. It may become a contract either on receipt of telegraphic acceptance from home or on arrival and notification of arrival of the goods. An indent, too, so far as my experience goes, is usually one document; here there are two, and I must say it seems to me that this is the origin of the whole dispute. If there had only been one document, the defendants of course could not not have set up variance, but owing to the plaintiffs having drawn them up as they have, also having made alterations in some documents and in others, they have given the defendants an opportunity of endeavouring to avoid their ordinary liabilities. Now what are these documents? It seems that, in spite of their being, so to speak, in duplicate, yet in view of the clause as to non-arrival that I have quoted above, they cannot be considered (even if there were no variations) completed contracts on March 13, 1896, and March 17, 1896, respectively, and

that they are merely indents. In other words, that before they became perfected contracts arrival and notification of arrival were essential features. That being my view, it follows that acceptance of a portion of the goods and payment of a portion of the money is a complete ratification. There is no dispute as to the amount of damages, so that there will be judgment for \$1,000 and costs.

20th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

CHENG IU TING Y. CHUN YAM AND
MA PAK TO.

In this case plaintiff, who is a proprietor of a sugar shop, brought three actions against Chan Yam, compradore to Messrs. Gilman and Co., and Ma Pak To, broker, to recover sums due on separate promissory notes, the first being for \$600, the second \$800, and the third \$900. Plaintiff also sued for interest on the notes.

Mr. J. F. Reece appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Denny) for the first defendant, and Mr. Wilkinson for the second defendant.

The cases were by consent heard together, evidence being given on the 14th and 15th inst.

His Lordship delivered the following judgment.—These are three suits on three promissory notes dated January 29th, 1897, to recover the sums of \$600, \$800, and \$900. During the course of the hearing of suit 930 it was arranged that, the evidence being the same, all three suits should be heard together. The plaintiff's story is as follows: He lent a sum of \$600 to one Ma Pak To (second defendant) and received a promissory note for that amount payable in a year's time, signed by second defendant as principal and Li Ut Tin and first defendant by the name of Chan Pak Shang as guarantors. That he entered this in a small book produced (exhibit 1) and that when that book was full he copied the entry into another book produced (exhibit 2), and that interest was duly paid on this loan up to September 14th, 1896, and that the principal was still due on January 29th, 1897, the date of the promissory notes sued upon. Again on February 4th, 1896, he lent the second defendant \$400 and received a promissory note from him for that amount, payable in four months, signed by the second defendant as principal and by the first defendant (Chan Pak Shang) as guarantor. This loan was also entered in exhibit 1 and the plaintiff alleges that interest was duly paid on it for the four months, up to June 2nd, 1896. That then the note was renewed for one for a similar amount payable on demand and signed as before, and that interest was duly paid on the new note up to January 29th, 1897, at which date the principal was still due and that an entry of this new note was made in exhibit 2. Again on June 9th, 1896, he lent the second defendant \$200 and received a promissory note from him for that amount signed as the last note. This transaction was entered in exhibit 2 and interest was duly paid up to January 29th, 1897, when the principal was still owing. Again on September 8th, 1896, he lent the second defendant \$750 and received a promissory note signed as before for that amount. He shows an entry of this transaction in exhibit 2, also entries of payment of interest up to December 6th, 1896, and states that the principal was still due on January 29th, 1897, with some arrears of interest. Again on November 21st, 1896, he lent the second defendant \$300 and received a promissory note signed as before for that amount. This amount also appears to have been entered in exhibit 2 and interest is alleged to have been duly paid up to January 29th, 1897, on which date the principal was still due. Thus it will be seen that on January 29th, 1897, according to the plaintiff's story there were five promissory notes outstanding for sums amounting altogether to \$2,250 with arrears of interest amounting to \$98. It may be mentioned here that the plaintiff states that all the notes were prepared by second defendant and all the interest paid by him. The story goes on that a few days before January 29th, 1897, the plaintiff began to press for payment and that second defendant told him not to be

afraid as the first defendant was the owner of two houses which were already charged in favour of the firm of which he (first defendant) was compradore. The plaintiff seems to have made some inquiries at the Land Office as to these houses and eventually the three promissory notes sued on were, according to the plaintiff, on January 29th, 1897, signed by second defendant as principal and first defendant as guarantor. These promissory notes are said to have been made out by second defendant and they also purport to contain a charge on the two houses in question as a collateral security. They are also signed by the first defendant at the request of the plaintiff by the name of Chan Yam and not Chan Pak Shang as before. The plaintiff explains this by saying that the first defendant had signed the memorial at the Land Office as Chan Yam, and as the promissory notes contained the charge above referred to he, the plaintiff, thought it better that that name should be used. He also states that on the signing of the new notes the old outstanding ones were handed over to the defendants. The new notes are for sums amounting in all to \$2,300, the extra \$50 being for interest unpaid on the old notes. An entry of this new transaction was also made in exhibit 2 and the plaintiff alleges that nothing has been paid on these new notes either on account of principal or interest, which is rather singular seeing that interest was admitted to have been paid with a certain amount of regularity up to January 29th, 1897. On July 29th, 1897, acting under instructions from the plaintiff, Mr. Holmes wrote to the first defendant demanding payment of \$2,300 and interest due on his promissory note, and threatened legal proceedings in case of non-payment. Plaintiff then states that he himself saw the defendants about the end of August, 1897, and demanded payment, and that they then admitted their indebtedness, but as he received nothing he commenced these proceedings. The plaintiff also stated that he had two other transactions with second defendant for \$30 and \$70 respectively which, however, had been settled, but he totally denied ever having lent a sum of \$500 at any time to either of the defendants, and when a promissory note (exhibit 12) dated June 2nd, 1896, purporting to secure a loan from him to the defendants of \$500 was shown to him he denied all knowledge of it and stated that it was not in second defendant's handwriting. In connection with this fact it must be noted that two letters were put in and admitted by the plaintiff, dated January 7th and 25th, 1897, respectively (only a short time before the date of the note sued upon) and addressed in the first case to the second defendant and in the second to both defendants, in which the plaintiff demanded repayment from the defendants of a principal sum of \$500. It will be seen later on that these letters are important. On this point the plaintiff exclaims that he only demanded \$500 at the suggestion of the second defendant, as he was afraid that first defendant would not be able to pay the whole amount, and yet it will be remembered that on January 29th, 1897 (a few days after), he was willing to take new notes for \$2,300 and he even states that he was willing to renew in August, 1897. With reference also to exhibit 12, although the plaintiff himself totally denied knowledge of it, yet a suggested explanation of the existence was set up in the cross-examination of the defendants by the plaintiff's solicitor and that the defendants wanted to renew their promissory note of February 4th, 1896, payable in four months, and to borrow an extra \$100 and so that on June 2nd, 1896 (the date at which it was alleged the \$100 note was renewed), the second defendant brought exhibit 12 already made out, but that he, the plaintiff, had not \$100 at the time to lend and refused to renew for more than \$400. This suggested explanation is surely inconsistent with plaintiff's denial of all knowledge of the note and his absolute denial that it was in second defendant's writing, though he admits that one signature resembled that of the first defendant, and it must also be noted that on June 9th, 1896 (seven days later), he was able, on his own statement, to lend the defendants \$200. With reference to the books (exhibit 1 and 2) produced by the plaintiff objection was taken to them as being inadmissible in evidence and there is no doubt that they were kept in a

very slovenly manner. For instance entries relating to the various businesses carried on by the plaintiff, viz: those of a sugar dealer, a money changer and a money lender, were all mixed up together and the entries were not made in order of date. Exhibit 1 also on the cover purports to be for the 29th year, but the entries inside are for the 21st year, and exhibit 2 is described as a foreign goods book, but the majority of the entries are for money lent, so that it is obvious that originally the books were intended for different purposes to those to which they were subsequently put. With reference to the stamps on the various promissory notes the plaintiff states he never got any of the stamps and that all the documents were brought already stamped by the second defendant. It was, however, proved that on January 29th, 1897, an application was made to the Stamp Office for stamps exactly agreeing with the stamps on the three promissory notes in dispute, and that such application purported to be made by one Cheng Tu Ting (the plaintiff's name). This is of course not conclusive evidence against the plaintiff, as anyone else might have used his name and in fact he suggests that the second defendant did so. The only other witness for the plaintiff who throws any light on the case is the plaintiff's son, who stated that in August, 1897, he went to the first defendant and demanded payment and that first defendant promised to pay. This is admitted by the first defendant so far as the interview is concerned, but the first defendant states that he then denied all liability. The defence was an absolute denial of all liability and an allegation that the three notes were forgeries. It was admitted, however, that there had been two transactions for \$800 and \$500 between the parties, in which the plaintiff was the lender, the second defendant the borrower, and the first defendant the guarantor, but that these sums and all interest on them had been paid off according to the defendants' story. The \$600 loan was made in September, 1895, and was paid off in March, 1896, and the first defendant stated that he received the promissory note and destroyed it. The \$500 loan (exhibit 12) was said to have been made on June 2nd, 1896, and the first defendant accounts for the note being in his possession by the fact that he lent the second defendant \$200 to pay off the \$500 and so the note came into his hands. He states that the note is in second defendant's writing and signed by him, and that he, the first defendant, signed as guarantor, and he denies that he ever had any other transactions with the plaintiff or that he ever signed the notes sued upon. This evidence is corroborated by the second defendant who states that he paid off the notes for \$600 and \$500 in March, 1896, and on January 29th, 1897, respectively. He denies all the other loans testified to by the plaintiff and states that the signatures on the documents sued on are not his. He also denies that the letters of January 7th and 25th, 1897, were written at his instigation. It will be remembered that in all the earlier promissory notes the first defendant is alleged to have signed as Chan Pak Shang, but that in the three in question he appears to have signed as Chan Yam, and the plaintiff explained, as I have stated above, why this was done. With reference to this character "Yam," however, the first defendant stated that he never used this character as written on the promissory note sued on, and he wrote down the character as he used it, which is a totally different one, and in support of this contention he produced his assessment return and his annual pass and a bond, in all of which his name appears and in which the character "Yam" agrees with the character as written by him and not with the character on the promissory notes in question. It was suggested by Mr. Francis that the plaintiff fell into this mistake by the fact that when the register at the Land Office was inspected, the signature of Chan Yam was found to be written in English and so he had no clue as to what Chinese character the first defendant used himself. If that is so it goes far to prove the defendant's case. That is practically the evidence on which I have to base my decision. It is clear that one party or the other is lying, and the difficulty of coming to a conclusion is enhanced by the fact that it is practically the plaintiff's evidence alone against that of the defendants' alone. It is of course for the plaintiff to make out this case, and in an ordinary way his evidence supported by a promissory note or notes

and entries in his books, would be sufficient as against a simple denial. In this suit, however, there are a number of suspicious circumstances, which militate against the credit to be given to the plaintiff's version. In the first place the books are very badly kept, and, although I have admitted them as evidence, yet the support they give to the plaintiff is of a somewhat slender description. So far as this case is concerned they can hardly be described as having been kept in the ordinary course of business (viz., that of money-lending) for the reason that I have given before. Again it is a curious thing that even, according to the plaintiff's evidence, interest on the various promissory notes was paid up on January 29th or 30th, 1897, but that on the three in question not one cent has been paid. With reference to the \$500 promissory note (exhibit 12), I have already alluded to the plaintiff's denial of all knowledge of it and how that denial does not coincide with the suggested explanation put forward by his solicitor that he, the plaintiff, had not got \$100 on June 2nd, 1896, though on June 9th, 1896, he did (as he alleges) lend the defendants \$200. When it is also remembered that the plaintiff wrote two letters (before referred to) demanding payment of a sum of \$500, it cannot be denied that, in spite of his explanation of those letters, considerable doubt is thrown on his veracity. It is also a very suspicious circumstance (and one which, taken in conjunction with the other suspicious circumstances in the case, must weigh against the defendant) that on January 29th, 1897, an application purporting to be made by him was made to the Stamp Office for an amount and description of stamp exactly corresponding with those on the three promissory notes in question. In addition to the above peculiarities, however, there is the question of the character "Yam" which I have gone into before, and which to my mind is conclusive. Taking the evidence therefore, as a whole, I am clearly of opinion that the plaintiff has not made out his case and there will be judgment for the defendants and costs in the three suits, only one set of costs being allowed for the hearing.

Mr. Reece asked for stay of execution pending an application for leave to appeal.

Mr. Francis did not object and his Lordship granted stay of execution for one week.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 16th Sept. Dr. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present—Hon. F. H. May, (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A NEW BY-LAW.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH moved that the following by-law, made under Ordinance 24 of 1887, be made by the Board:—"By-law 18.—The keeper of a common lodging-house shall not permit his premises to be occupied, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., by a greater number of persons than that specified on the licence issued to him by the Registrar General." The Medical Officer of Health remarked that the advisability of making such a by-law as this was pointed out to him by the Magistrate during proceedings recently taken to prevent overcrowding. The present method of procedure was undoubtedly a very cumbersome and round-about way of preventing overcrowding, and the Magistrate suggested that as each licence for a common lodging house specified the number of persons allowed in the house it was advisable to frame a by-law prohibiting houses to be occupied by a greater number than that specified on the licence. By-law 9 of the common lodging house by-laws was used for preventing overcrowding, and when he (the Medical Officer of Health) came to the colony he pointed out that there appeared to be some flaw in it in regard to the taking of proceedings for overcrowding. He consulted with the Attorney-General, who agreed with him that it was not a suitable by-law, and the above by-law was therefore framed. In regard

to a minute by the Acting Director of Public Works respecting the penalty for an infringement of the by-law, the Medical Officer of Health pointed out that section 83 of the Ordinance provided for a penalty not exceeding \$50, and therefore it was not necessary to add a penal clause to the by-law.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE seconded.

Carried.

PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

The official return from Bombay showed that from the 3rd August to 18th August, inclusive, there were 44 cases of plague, 32 of them proving fatal.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 4th September the death rate was 19.4 per 1,000 per annum, as against 18.4 for the corresponding week of last year. For the week ended 11th September the rate was 20.6, as compared with 17.8 for the corresponding week of last year.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE HONGKONG POLICE FORCE.

APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

The *Weekly Irish Times* of August 14th, in a column devoted to the Royal Irish constabulary, contains the following paragraph:—"District Inspector Howe has left Newport, Co. Mayo, having been granted twelve months' leave of absence to assist in the re-organization of the Police Force at Hongkong. He will have the rank of Deputy Adjutant-General with a very handsome stipend thrown in."

THE TYPHOON.

A dull threatening morning, a squally afternoon, and a rainy night sums up the weather on 17th Sept. It was thought that the typhoon would strike Hongkong, but apparently we had been feeling only the effects of its fag end. Of course householders took due precautions to protect themselves from the wind, while only one or two of the large vessels remained at their buoys in the harbour, the others seeking shelter in Kowloon Bay and behind Stonecutter's Island, the sampans obtaining refuge in Causeway Bay. Among the many vessels in Kowloon Bay were the homeward French mail steamer and the Australian mail, both of them having returned to Hongkong early in the morning in consequence of the exceedingly rough weather outside. The Australian mail steamer *Tsinan* had a very bad experience of the weather. Her pumps broke down and the vessel is said to have been in a very bad way, necessitating her return to Hongkong for repairs. At ten o'clock on the morning of the 17th Sept. the following notice was issued as an express from the Hongkong Observatory:—"17th at 10.25 a.m. The typhoon is passing probably about 200 miles to the Southward of Hongkong. It appears to be moving in a Westerly direction. The barometer has risen in the Formosa Channel and at Bolinao and is practically steady in Hongkong. A strong N. E. gale blows at Gap Rock. Forecast:—Strong N. E. and E. gales off the coast in the neighbourhood of Hongkong, but it is doubtful whether the wind will reach the force of a strong gale in the harbour." As a matter of fact the wind did reach the force of rather a strong gale in the harbour, and at 2.45 p.m. one round was fired, indicating that a heavy gale was expected. The sea was very rough and in a very short time the harbour was practically deserted. About four o'clock the Kowloon ferry launches discontinued running in consequence of the danger experienced in getting alongside the piers. The wind blew very heavily until about half-past eight, when it considerably abated and rain afterwards fell in torrents.

Very little damage was caused in Hongkong by Friday's gale, the warning of its approach having been given in ample time to allow of the small craft in the harbour obtaining shelter. A fast boat was smashed against the Praya wall near the old market wharf, but beyond this there was practically no other damage in the harbour or on shore. The P. & O. mail steamer *Mirzapore* came to port much earlier than was anticipated.

It was generally supposed that she would feel the full effects of the typhoon on her way up to Singapore and no one would have been surprised if she had not been signalled until yesterday. She had rough weather during the last two days of the voyage, but happily she escaped injury of any sort. The stormy weather commenced on the night of the 16th inst., the wind being so strong that the vessel had to be stripped of her awnings. The wind increased in violence and the sea became more confused, the crew's quarters being flooded early the following morning, while a sheep pen was smashed by the heavy seas that washed over the boat. The rough weather continued until Hongkong was reached, so that the passengers had anything but a pleasant time. The crew worked splendidly during the storm and everything was done to ensure as much comfort for the passengers as was possible under the circumstances.

The *Arratoon Apear*, from Calcutta, arrived on the morning of the 19th Sept. after a most exciting voyage. The vessel was unfortunate enough to encounter the full force of the typhoon and it was only by dint of persistent hard work on the part of the captain and his officers that the boat arrived here safely. Light variable winds were experienced until the 16th inst., when a strong northerly wind set in and developed into a typhoon. The seas were tremendously high and the vessel laboured heavily, sometimes appearing as if she was standing on her nose. Heavy seas washed over the vessel again and again and for fourteen hours the boat was put head to sea. There were about 230 Chinese passengers on board and they were of course battered down, while the four or five European passengers had a terribly rough experience, their cabins being repeatedly flooded. At one time the fires in the engine room were seriously threatened with extinction. The stoke hole was filled with water to the depth of two or three feet, and with each lurch of the ship the stoke hole plates were lifted, the firemen thus having considerable difficulty in their work. For hours part of the crew were in the engine room baling out the water, and it can well be imagined that the task was a most trying and exhausting one. However, the men stuck to their work so well that the fires remained intact. On the main and upper decks the heavy seas wrought an extraordinary amount of damage. Two boats were washed away and another was stove in by the powerful waves, a singular incident in connection with this being that one of the davits, which reached from the upper to the main deck, a distance of about eight feet, was lifted right out of its socket into the sea. The skids of the life rafts were smashed and the rafts jumbled in a heap on the deck, the steam pipes leading to the winches and windlass were twisted and broken, a portable galley used by the native crew was carried from the forward part along to the main hatch, and a 400 gallon fresh water tank was washed overboard from the main deck. In its career the tank smashed against a ladder leading to the upper deck and crashed into a door leading to the saloon. This was a most alarming occurrence. The water at once rushed through the broken door and poured into the saloon and filled the cabins. At one time the water was flush with the saloon table, and a piano which was fixed in the room was torn to pieces and it then floated on the water. Five of the after ports were also carried away. The passengers had a terribly anxious time. The water rushed into the cabins on one side and the next minute it would be swirling round the cabins on the opposite side, soaking every particle of clothing the unfortunate passengers possessed. One of the passengers was a lady and she had to go ashore on Sunday wearing wet clothes, while her little boy was dressed in a pair of pyjamas. The deck of the steamer presented a curious appearance on Sunday afternoon. Innumerable suits of clothes, ladies' dresses, carpets, packs of cards, cushions, books, and a bewildering assortment of odd things were strewn on the deck or hung up on lines drying in the sun, while boats, life rafts, steam-pipes, broken doors, were lying in a state of disorder in various parts of the vessel. The voyage was indeed a memorable one and the passengers and crew are not likely to forget their experience of the typhoon.

The P. & O. *Brindisi*, which arrived on the 18th, encountered the storm at the Paracels and sustained deck damage. Happily no one was injured.

WIFE MURDER IN HONGKONG.

THE ACCUSED AT LARGE.

A wife murder was committed in Hongkong on Saturday night. About seven o'clock Chinese Police Constable No. 308 was on special duty in Praya West when he found a woman lying at the door of a house at No. 151, Praya West bleeding from a wound on the left side of the throat. The constable blew his whistle and Police Constable 180 soon came on the scene. One of them then went to West Point police station and there informed Inspector Hennessey and Sergeant Gauld of the discovery. These officers at once hastened to the house and the Inspector found that the woman was dead. The father and mother of the woman just then arrived at the house and they told Inspector Hennessey that the husband had murdered the woman and had gone over to Tsimsatsui or Yaumati. The officer at once despatched P.C. 308 and another Chinese constable over to the mainland with instructions to arrest the husband if possible and then went back to the police station and telephoned an account of the occurrence to all the police stations in the colony. Sergeant Gauld meanwhile removing the body to the mortuary. The precise details of the case are not yet known, but it appears that the woman, who is about 21 years of age, is known by the name of Chau Tsai Kin. Up to about three months ago she resided with her husband at Cheung Sha Wan village, near Samsnipo. She then came to Hongkong and it is said that her conduct was such as to make her husband very jealous of her. She lived in various houses and was last seen alive at No. 151, Praya West a few days ago, and since then she had been living with her mother at No. 12, East Street. About six o'clock on Saturday night she left the house and it is believed she then went to No. 151, Praya West, where she met her husband, who stabbed her in the throat outside the house. Why she went there and how he knew she was there is not yet known. Unfortunately the search for the husband has as yet been fruitless. Two detectives went on Saturday night to the house of the accused's brother at Cheung Sha Wan, but the wanted man had not then been there and the detectives went away searching elsewhere. Soon after they left the accused man visited the house, but the police were not informed of the visit until after he had gone away and he still remains at liberty. It will therefore be useful to give the man's description. His name is Won Heung. He is about 23 years of age, and is a native of Tung Kun, but for some time past has been living at Cheung Sha Wan. He is thin and of medium height, and has small black marks on his face. It is believed that he committed the murder with a weapon something like a butcher's knife. Early yesterday morning Inspector Hennessey visited the scene of the tragedy and found quite close to the house a knife of this description. The blade, which was considerably bent, had turned rusty after having been in the rain.

There was an interesting law case before the Police Court on the 25th of August, says the *Korean Independent*, and the defendant won the case by the logical argument which he made before the Court on his own behalf. Cho Boksun of Wangsimni came to the town with his pony on business. He hitched his animal on the tree by the road side and went away to attend to his errand. During his absence the pony became unhitched and walked round the street. The pony saw a bull standing near by and went to it for a fight. The bull became angry at the impudence of the pony and gave it a good butting which resulted in its death. The owner of the dead pony sued the bull driver for damage before the Police Court and at the trial the defendant claimed that his bull killed the pony for self-defence. The Court *not. pros.* the case.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held at 3 p.m., on the 10th September:—Present:—Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), Herbert Smith (Vice-Chairman), J. J. Bell-Irving, T. Jackson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary.)

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting and of the special meeting of the 3rd September were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

Messrs. H. H. Kirch & Co. and the China Sugar Refining Co., Limited, had been elected members during the month.

THE EASTERN MAIL SUBSIDY.

In accordance with decision come to at last meeting, a letter was addressed to the Postmaster-General on the 17th ult. asking him to make another application to the General Post Office for certain information required by the Sub-Committee, and, on the 18th idem a reply (read) was received stating that the request had been complied with.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF BRITISH FIRMS AT NEW TREATY PORTS.

In connection with the refusal of the British Consular Agent at Shashih to register Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co.'s branch at Shashih as a British firm without further information, the Chamber had, at the request of Messrs. Watson & Co., addressed H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Shanghai, and, on receiving a letter from Sir Nicholas Hannen regretting his inability to render assistance, had since laid the matter before H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking.

THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

Read letter from Messrs. H. H. Kirch & Co., dated 20th August, as agents for Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co., of Manchester, supplying details of the case of infringement of trade mark, and expressing a hope that the Committee would give the question of registration their further consideration.

The question was discussed at some length, and it was resolved to address the Government on the subject.

LEKIN TAXATION IN THE TWO KWANG.

Read correspondence now passing between the Chamber and the British Consul at Canton on the above subject, including letter from the latter dated 28th ult. already published in local Press.

THE DANGEROUS COAST OF SOCOTRA.

The Secretary reported that copies of the Chamber's letter to the President of the Board of Trade (already published) had been forwarded to the local Government, to the Shanghai, Yokohama, Singapore, Colombo, and eighteen British Chambers of Commerce.

Read letter from Singapore Chamber acknowledging receipt of above and enclosing copy of their own letter on the same subject to the Government of the Straits Settlements (with inclosures), recommending the erection of a light.

TRANSIT PASS GUARANTEE FUND.

The guarantee signed 19th September, 1894, for the purpose of making trial consignments of goods to the inland markets in the two Kwang had been duly cancelled and circulated among the signatories.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sundry requests for information and arbitration were then considered.

The meeting then terminated.

(Correspondence.)

TRADE MARK REGISTRATION.

Hongkong, 20th August, 1897.

The Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—From the reports of the last meeting of your committee we notice that, in answering Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co.'s complaints, re infringement of one of their trade marks, forwarded through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, you informed them that a registration of trade marks is already in existence in this colony, and that their complaints were too vague to go further into the matter.

As local agents of Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co. will you permit us to bring all the facts of the case before you, and we venture to hope

that you will give the matter your further consideration.

In November, 1895, we had occasion to send an order for several hundred cases of cotton thread to Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co., asking them to use one of our own trade marks. This they refused to do on the ground that their horse shoe label was well known anywhere and they could not send their goods out under a new label. Being assured that the horse shoe label was their own undisputed property, we consented to the change and the order was consequently filled. Just after the arrival of the first lot, a local firm applied to H.E. the Governor for registration of the identical trade mark in their own name, to which application we of course protested through our solicitor, on behalf of our friends Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co. After considerable correspondence and legal searches it was conclusively proved that Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co. were the recognised proprietors of the said label, not only in England, where it has been registered in their name since 1883 and renewed in 1889, but also in Belgium, since 1888, the country where our neighbours received their goods from, so that an infringement was clearly proved. Our neighbours then withdrew their application and finally H.E. the Governor and the Executive Council sanctioned the registration of the "horse shoe" label in the name of Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co.

In fairness to our neighbours we ought to mention that they were not aware of the infringement, the horse shoe label having been offered to them by their Belgium Agents. All these proceedings naturally caused a great deal of annoyance and expense to Messrs. Marsland, Son and Co., who then applied for the assistance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the result known to you.

Apart from the personal matter our friends in their letter to the Secretary of State touch upon a subject of general interest, and that is, whether registration of trade marks in England is absolutely of no consequence in this colony, and if this be the case, we take it that any one might apply here for registration of well known English trade marks which have not yet been registered here, thus causing considerable damage to the original proprietors of the said labels in England and exclude them from doing any future business here under their own labels. In common with Messrs. Marsland, Son and Co. we considered this a question of vital importance and well worth the attention of your Committee. As far as we can ascertain, the present system of registering trade marks makes no provision for such a case, nor does it seem that there is any legislation on the subject.

We should consider it a particular favour if you will cause another letter to be written to Messrs. Marsland, Son and Co., Manchester, setting forth your views on this subject, and whether you consider it advisable to request H.E. the Governor to refer the matter to the legal advisers of the Crown for further consideration.—We have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servants.

(Signed) H. H. KIRCH & Co.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
10th September, 1897.

To Messrs. H. H. Kirch & Co.

Dear Sirs,—Acknowledgment of the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult. in reference to the infringement of one of their trade marks, complained of by Messrs. Marsland, Son & Co. was deferred to the monthly meeting of the Committee held this afternoon.

The matter was then considered at some length, and has the Committee's attention.—I am, dear sirs, your obedient servant.

R. C. WILCOX, Secretary.

THE DANGEROUS COAST OF SOCOTRA.

Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore, 27th August, 1897.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th instant with copy letter of 17th idem addressed by your Chamber to the President of the Board of Trade on the subject of the dangers to navigation presented by the Coast of Socotra.

I am directed by my Committee to thank you and to enclose copy of their letter of 13th instant to the Government on the same subject and copies of enclosures therein referred to.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant.

ALEX. J. GUNN,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore, 13th August, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to give cover herewith to copy of letter, dated 23rd July, addressed by Mr. Ritchie, Acting Agent at this port of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to this Chamber, in which he forwards a communication dated 2nd July, 1897, signed by the commanders of sixteen steamers all of important and well known Companies engaged in the carrying trade to Europe, urging that for greater safety to navigation a suitable light should be promptly established on the Eastern end of the Island of Socotra.

I am directed to ask that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to cause the views and appeal set forth in the communication of the shipmasters aforesaid to be laid before the proper authority for giving consideration to same; and I am instructed to add that any scheme of placing light or lights on Socotra which would be reckoned by authorities on the subject to bring greater safety to navigation will not only meet with approval of this Chamber, but the adoption thereof is urged by it.—I have, &c.

ALEX. J. GUNN, Secretary.
The Honourable C. W. S. Kynnersley, Acting Colonial Secretary, Singapore.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.,
Singapore, 23rd July, 1897.

The Chairman, Singapore Chamber of Commerce, Singapore.

Sir,—At the request of the signatories I have the honour to enclose for your consideration a letter addressed to me urging that the Chamber of Commerce should represent in the proper quarter the necessity of promptly establishing a powerful light on the Eastern end of the Island of Socotra.—I have &c.,

(Sgd.) FRANK RITCHIE,
Acting Agent.

Singapore, 2nd July, 1897.

To Frank Ritchie, Esq., Acting Agent, P. & O. S. N. Coy., Singapore.

Sir,—We, the undersigned masters of ocean going steamers are desirous of drawing attention to the great danger to lives and shipping owing to the non-existence of a light at the East end of the Island of Socotra. That its establishment is absolutely and urgently necessary is evidenced by the various wrecks which have occurred there from time to time, and we earnestly trust that this and the recent sad loss of the s.s. *Aden* with many lives will induce the Board of Trade to undertake this work without further delay.

Owing to the thick and rainy weather which prevails during a considerable part of the year, it is often impossible to obtain observations, and even when feasible they are frequently practically valueless on account of the uncertainty of the horizon, especially at night. Every year the already enormous amount of shipping passing the island is increasing while speed is being accelerated, and even with the most careful navigation and the longest experience the absence of this light must always constitute a serious danger.

We would strongly recommend that the character of the light should be a powerful flash at short intervals visible at a distance of not less than 25 miles.

We therefore beg that you will forward this letter to the Chairman of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce requesting him to forward it to the proper authorities in London to be dealt with.

R. S. Brown	Master Steamship	<i>Ulysses</i>
Chas. Jackson	"	<i>Priam</i>
G. D. C. Weston	"	<i>Bombay</i>
J. Miller	"	<i>Java</i>
Wm. Gardner	"	<i>Titan</i>
W. C. Lycett	"	<i>Stentor</i>
Chas. H. Kemp	"	<i>Moyune</i>
Geo. W. Long	"	<i>Teenkai</i>

James McGregor	"	<i>Glenloch</i>
Thos. Bartlett	"	<i>Diomed</i>
E. R. Dowell	"	<i>Thames</i>
E. G. Andrews	"	<i>Mazagon</i>
M. R. L. Pritchard	"	<i>Cam</i>
C. N. Hansen	"	<i>Eva</i>
F. W. Vibert	"	<i>Peshawur</i>
H. W. Jones	"	<i>Ningchow</i>

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at the offices of the Chamber, No. 1, Kinkiang Road, on Monday, the 13th of September, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. E. F. Alford (in the chair), C. J. Dudgeon, F. W. Koch, W. D. Little, E. Shellim, A. Werth, and the Secretary.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The New Mail Contract.—The draft of a letter addressed to the Postmaster-General, London, was laid before the meeting, protesting against the proposed alteration, under the new mail contract with the P. & O. Co., of the day of departure of the mail steamer from Shanghai. The letter was approved of by the Committee, and was ordered for publication.

Foochow Machine-made Tea.—A report from Messrs. A. Campbell and J. W. Harding, on samples of machine-made tea forwarded from Foochow, was read, and it was resolved that a copy of same should be sent to the Foochow Tea Improvement Co., Ltd.

Likin in the Interior.—A letter from Mr. George Parker, of Kintsikuow, Honan, was read, complaining of the greatly increased squeezes of the likin stations, and it was agreed that Mr. Parker should be asked to state a specific case on which the Chamber could take action.

Discriminatory Duties in the United States.—It was decided to enquire of the United States Consul what information he could afford on this subject.

THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the fourteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the Company, on Saturday, 25th September, at noon:—

The General Managers have now to submit to the shareholders their report on the fourteenth year's working of the Company ended 30th June, 1897. After paying all running expenses, premia of insurance, remuneration to consulting committee, and auditors' fees, the net profit of the year amounts to \$193,540.30, out of which sum an interim dividend of \$40,000 was paid in March last, leaving a balance at the credit of profit and loss account on the 30th June, 1897, of \$153,540.30, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To write off \$59,643.75 from the book values of the Company's properties on 30th June last (less the amount of the reserve fund) being the equivalent of 8 per cent. thereon, to pay a final dividend of 8 per cent. which will absorb a further \$80,000.00, and to transfer the balance of \$13,896.55 to the reserve fund.

It will be observed from the accounts that the items in connection with the failure of our late Amoy agents have now been adjusted; we were led to hope that a further amount would be recovered, but fear there is now no chance of it.

The materials for the new wharf arrived some time ago, but in consequence of the continued delay in the completion of the foreshore reclamation, it will be some months yet before the erection of it can be proceeded with.

The fleet has been maintained in its usual state of efficiency and continues to command the confidence of shippers.

In conclusion we may mention that the amounts appearing as freights due and accounts receivable on 30th June, have since been collected.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since the last meeting Mr. D. R. Sassoon has resigned his seat on the Board and Mr. D. Gubbay has been invited to fill it. The Committee now consists of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, and Messrs. A. Ross, C. A. Tomes, and D. Gubbay.

In terms of the Articles of Association all these gentlemen retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The present accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Gaskell, who retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

DOUGLAS, LAPRAIK & Co.,
General Managers.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1897.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account:—			
20,000 shares at \$50	1,000,000.00		
Reserve fund	101,731.59		
Underwriting account of the Company	50,984.50		
Sundry accounts payable	59,220.22		
Unpaid dividends	83.00		
Unpaid bonus (account 1896)	138.00		
Profit and loss account	153,540.30		
	\$1,365,697.61		

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Value of the Co.'s steamers <i>Hailan</i> , <i>Hailong</i> , <i>Namoa</i> , <i>Thales</i> , <i>Formosa</i> , & <i>Haimun</i>	841,500.00		
Value of buoys and moorings at Swatow, Amoy, Tamsui, and Hongkong, steam launch, and sundry spare gear	5,778.51		
	\$47,278.51		
Material for new wharf at Hongkong	35,162.75		
Loans on mortgage	172,500.00		
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (deposit and interest account) ..	136,987.98		
Value of coal in stock	7,745.20		
Freights due 30th June, 1897	85,148.24		
Sundry accounts receivable from agencies, &c. ..	80,233.74		
Cash in hand	641.19		
	\$1,365,697.61		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1897.

	\$	c.
To remuneration to General Managers for office expenses, for 12 months	10,000.00	
To remuneration to Consulting Committee for 12 months	2,000.00	
To auditors' fees	600.00	
To exchange account	2,132.40	
To charges account	338.99	
To late Amoy agents (amount written off) ..	5,197.02	
To interim dividend for 6 months ended 31st December, 1896	40,000.00	
To balance	153,540.30	
	\$213,808.71	

	\$	c.
By profit on running the Company's steamers to date	194,018.04	
By profit on coals supplied to steamers	4,176.08	
By interest on deposits account	8,372.65	
By interest on mortgages account	5,832.44	
By bonuses received	1,409.50	
	\$213,808.71	

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-first ordinary meeting, to be held on Saturday, 2nd October, at noon:—

The directors have much pleasure in laying before the shareholders the accompanying statement of accounts for the year ended 30th April last.

The net premia amounts to \$1,001,455.92 and the working account shows a balance at credit of \$621,807.25, which sum the directors recommend be appropriated in the following manner:—

A dividend of 20 per cent. to shareholders	\$120,000.00
A dividend of 20 per cent. on contributions, payable to all contributors of business whether shareholders or not	150,000.00
To be carried to new account	351,807.25
	\$621,807.25

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. J. Kramer, P. Sachse, M. D. Ezekiel, and J. W. R. Taylor retired from the board on leaving the colony; Messrs. C. Beumann, G. D. Böning, J. Thurburn, and A. J. Raymond accepted invitations from the directors to fill the vacancies, and their appointment will be submitted for the confirmation of shareholders.

Messrs. St. C. Michaelsen and A. J. Raymond retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries, who offer themselves for re-election.

C. BEUMANN,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 17th September, 1897.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1897.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cash in hand	81,638.53		
Fixed deposits with Banks	345,000.00		
Invested in mortgages of properties	916,206.78		
Bonds of Chinese Imperial Government Loan, 1886	52,203.69		
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, debentures	150,000.00		
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., debentures ..	5,545.93		
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, debentures	50,916.19		
London branch:—			
Cash in hand	\$138,589.07		
Indian Government securities	350,137.20		
Remittances in transit	167,446.81		
	658,173.08		
Australasian branches:—			
Cash in hand, in course of collection, and on fixed deposit	163,325.97		
Yokohama branch:—			
Cash in hand and on fixed deposit	22,545.00		
Interest accrued, but not yet payable	14,077.45		
Furniture at head office and branches	7,413.23		
Sundry debtors	45,179.19		
	\$2,510,225.04		

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital subscribed	\$2,000,000		
Amount paid-up	600,000.00		
Reserve fund	1,000,000.00		
Dividends outstanding	21,363.62		
Exchange fluctuation account	158,393.77		
Sundry creditors	108,660.40		
Profit and loss account	621,807.25		
	\$2,510,225.04		

WORKING ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
To losses	562,760.05		
To charges, survey fees, &c.	237,943.24		
To directors' and auditors' fees—head office and branches	20,801.89		
To balance to profit and loss account	621,807.25		
	\$1,443,312.43		

	\$	c.
By premia, less re-insurances, return premium and commissions	1,001,455.92	
By interest	110,288.66	
By transfer fees	190.00	
By exchange	4,029.00	
By amount brought forward from last year ..	327,348.85	
	\$1,443,312.43	

RESERVE FUND.		\$	c.
To balance on 31st July, 1897	1,000,000.00		
	\$1,000,000.00		
By balance on 31st July, 1896	\$900,000.00		
By amount transferred from 1895-1896 account	100,000.00		
	\$1,000,000.00		

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report from the manager at the mines on the work carried on during the month of August:—

August Shaft.—The sinking of this shaft was continued full time up to the 27th instant, when the required depth (315 feet) having been reached and the necessary timbering completed, the cross-cut to go up to the reef at the 300 feet level was commenced.

The ground sunk during the month is 21 feet 6 inches, which I presume to think is fairly good progress for 27 days' work in such hard ground. The cross-cut is now in 4 feet, and will be pushed on with all possible speed.

Of course the cutting of the plat will take some little time; but after that is completed I hope to see really good progress made. In the stopes to the West of the New Shaft at the 200 feet level the reef has continued very strong,

but I regret to say the quality of the ore mined has been very low indeed. The reef is exceptionally hard and hence the Chinese miners are not able to get out the quantity of ore one would expect from such a big reef. I am still of the opinion that rock drills should be got the moment our prospects in the deeper ground warrant the outlay. We have not succeeded in finding any pockets of rich ore during the month.

Intermediate Level.—The drive here to go up to the North Shaft has been extended 9 feet 6 inches, making its total length 85 feet from the cross-cut. We are now running a cross-cut West off this drive to prove if the ore we are working in the stopes at the 200 feet level is continuous in height, and a separate chute from that already worked out, and hope to see this proved during the coming month.

Drivage for the month 167 feet 6 inches.
Ore mined 336 tons.

110 feet Level.—The stopes here have become exhausted and the men put on to take out a piece of reef near the surface.

North Shaft.—We have fixed the Evans pump in this shaft and are now sinking with it. It gave us great trouble to commence with, but I think we have now overcome this, to a great extent, at least.

The sinking here for the month is 7 feet only, making its entire depth 140 feet from surface.

Milling.—This was carried on during 29 days crushing 336 tons of ore from the mine yielding 84 ounces, and 2,264 tons of old headings yielding 145 ounces of smelted gold.

Calcining Works.—These works treated 35 tons of concentrates for a yield of 23 ounces of melted gold.

This, I need not tell you, is a great falling off as compared with former months and is the result at the very poor ore we have been milling.

Cyanide Works.—These works ran 28 days treating 846 tons of tailings for a yield of 305 ozs. 8 dwts. of bullion valued at 19s. 0^d. per oz.

A new water wheel to replace the old one for these works has been made here and will be put into position in a few days. The dimensions of the new wheel are 12 feet in height with a 3ft. 10in. breast it is made throughout of the very best Maribo timber procurable here.

General.—The usual attention has been given to all work coming under this head and everything kept in good order. All the European quarters have been newly roofed and repaired generally so as to be ready for the next monsoon.

Labour.—The supply of this has been fairly plentiful.

Health.—This has been fairly good.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 9 inches.

SECRETARY'S NOTE.

The "plat" referred to in the course of the Manager's Report for August is the technical term applied to the enlarged chamber at the opening of a cross-cut. It extends in for about 12 feet only.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, the General Managers, have received the following report from the Mines:—

Mount Macdonald, 27th August, 1897.

Eureka Mine.—The sinking and timbering of main shaft is going on well; total below the 200 feet level is now 46 feet. A hole was bored 2¹/₂ feet into the reef; which was found to be of solid stone, and showing gold equal to any seen when the reef was broken into at the 200 feet level. We cannot yet state how thick it is, but from indications believe it will be over 5 feet, possibly 6 or 7 feet; and from the gold showing already there is not the shadow of a doubt about its quality. There is no change to report in main drives at the 200 feet and 150 feet levels, since last week. We are putting in main stall timber and completing tram lines.

The air and mullock shaft will be connected with the stopes at the 150 feet level in about three weeks. The sinking of the underlay shaft on G. L. 105 is being carried on by two men.

The reef is increasing in size and shows a little gold in dish trials. The clean up from Eureka last Saturday was 72¹/₂ ozs. from 140 tons. We could not get any more through the old battery.

Olivers Battery.—On cleaning off on 21st inst. we found that the stampers were completely worn out, and the boxes beyond further repair, so we decided to suspend crushing, as it would have been only a waste of time and money to attempt to work it. The work of dismantling and pulling out was commenced on the 23rd inst. and will soon be completed, and bed logs put in position for the new boxes, &c., &c. The new tables on a larger scale and improved pattern are almost completed, and the engine and boilers are having a thorough overhaul; so that on re-starting, everything will be in first class order; and with the stone now at grass and in sight below, there can be no doubt as to a successful result.

NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, the General Managers, have received the following report from the mines:—

Mount Macdonald, 27th August 1897.

Queen Mine.—The contractors in the main shaft are nearing the completion of their contract; and when that is done, the alteration to the poppet legs will be made, as it cannot be undertaken while the men are working in the shaft.

Balmoral Mine.—The men in the tunnel on G.L. 6 are making fair progress for the True Blue run of stone. Another tribute has been let on G.L. 5, the Company retaining one half of the interest and paying the men working half wages. We consider this arrangement highly advantageous to the Company. Should gold be struck, in addition to receiving a percentage on the gross yield, the Company would also receive one half of the gold. By this arrangement the ground will be prospected at a comparatively small outlay.

THE RAUB MINES.

The Raub crushing for the months of July and August has yielded 1,517 ounces of smelted gold from 2,350 tons of stone. That gives us the somewhat low average of 12 dwts. 21 grains and a fraction of gold to the ton of stone, crushed. The average for May and June was nearly 17½ dwts. to the ton, and the average for the four previous crushings, covering a period of eight months, was 17.23 dwts. The explanation of the low average recorded to-day is said to be that development work is being pushed forward, and, necessarily, little attention is being given to stopping. The policy of vigorous development, without reference to shares and dividends, was emphatically recommended, it will be remembered, by our Special Commissioner, after his visit to the mines last spring. Our Commissioner wrote:—"The Directors of Raub would still, probably, be doing the very best thing for the shareholders if they were to put away all idea of paying a dividend for a year or two, and devote themselves entirely to development work, and to the laying bare of large reserves. This is how big dividends have been accumulated on the Rand." However, there is nothing alarming in the average just declared. A steady average in mining can only be maintained where you have a developed mine, where the manager has a mine map exhibiting the different grades of different lodes, and where he takes just so much ore from each lode as will maintain the average at the battery. But, where a mine is being developed, averages are bound to fluctuate month after month as the ore varies in richness. The record average of March and April—over an ounce to the ton—sent up the price of the shares to high water mark. To-day's average may give them a tendency downwards. But wise men will disregard the fluctuating results of individual crushings.

A Hongkong correspondent writes to us, asking a number of questions with reference to Raub. He is troubled about the electric installation by cross-country cable from the Simpan River, and conjures up dangers to it from "elephants and rhinoceroses," "up-risings among natives," and "discontent among Chinese miners." Then, again, he dreads the effect on the working of the mines, should the cable be seriously damaged, or get seriously

out of order. Our correspondent says that electrical machinery of this description is still a good deal in the experimental stage and he does not quite like the idea of Raub playing the rôle of pioneer in and about a Malay jungle. Well, we would advise our correspondent not to worry. A mole-hill becomes a mountain entirely according to the point of view. No doubt, the manager and the directors of Raub have taken all the points he mentions into careful consideration; and one of the principal objects Mr. Bibby has in view, during his absence on leave, is to get the fullest information with regard to the proposed installation. Certainly, if a cable is laid between the Simpan River and the Raub Mines, it will not be left to take care of itself. Our correspondent must have faith, nothing wavering, in the sense of the manager and of the directors. Besides, there is no absolute decision on the subject as yet.—*Straits Times*.

S. C. FARNHAM & CO., LIMITED.

The fifth annual general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at Shanghai on the 8th September. Mr. G. Galles (Chairman) presided and there were present: Messrs. Geo. Peebles (Director), J. S. Knowles (Secretary), J. M. Young, Pemberton, A. Thurburn, A. Miller, Wm. Thomson, W. H. Beatty, Spooner, Granston, Ferrier, C. Buchanan, Capt. Young, G. R. Corner, C. Thorne, G. W. Noël, H. von Rücker, W. S. Jackson, Zee Lan-char, Tulloch, and Darblestein, representing in all 3,227 shares. The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some time and with your permission we will take them as read. Although, as you will notice, the gross earnings have not quite come up to those of last year, they compare favourably with former years. The working account is made up as before and does not require any special explanation. Regarding our bark *Drumellian*, which vessel returned from her second voyage to New York on the 4th inst., we could only include the profit on the first one, and this year will get the benefit of the second trip. As was suggested at our last annual meeting, we have mentioned our Old Dock property separately. Our Cosmopolitan Dock property consists now of about 153 *mow* with 2,483 feet water-frontage, the value of which will rise with the increasing importance of the port. I may mention that the amount of Tls. 29,598.04 for the 107 *mow*, which you will find under our assets, includes about Tls. 4,000 expended on wall fence and road enclosing the property. Owing to the largely increased size of steamers coming here, we have during the last few years unfortunately been compelled to refuse to dock a good many, some of which were forced to dock in Hongkong or elsewhere. When our new dock is completed (dimensions of which will be 557 feet long over all, by 82 feet wide, at entrance, with 24 feet water on sill), we hope this will not happen again, as the dock will be capable of accommodating the largest vessels which can come to Shanghai. We can certainly congratulate the shareholders on the thoroughly sound and strong position in which our Company stands at present. Besides having a well invested reserve fund of Tls. 275,000, we have a depreciation and maintenance fund of Tls. 60,000, which might be called a second reserve, as owing to the rise in land, coupled with the low rates of exchange, our properties have all considerably appreciated. Our buildings, machinery, and plant are kept in first class repair and, as in former years, we have again spent out of earnings a considerable amount for improvements enlarging and improving our workshops and almost rebuilding our Old Dock and Tungkadoo Dock.

There being no questions,

The Chairman proposed "That the report and accounts of the Company for year ending the 30th of June, 1897, as printed and circulated, be adopted and approved, and that the directors be authorised to pay a dividend at the rate of Tls. 12 per share to the shareholders on the register at this date."

Mr. Peebles seconded, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

Upon the motion of Mr. A. Thurburn, seconded by Mr. J. M. Young, Mr. G. Galles was re-elected a director; and at the instance of Mr. W. S. Jackson, seconded by Mr. G. W. Noël, Mr. G. R. Corner and Mr. W. H. Anderson were re-elected as auditors.

Mr. G. W. Noël proposed a vote of thanks to the directors and staff for their services, which was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment.

The proceedings then terminated.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman extended an invitation to shareholders present to visit the Cosmopolitan Dock, late Collier, now under construction. Steam launches were in waiting and most of those present went down the river to the new dock. On arrival the shareholders were shown round the dock and also inspected the buildings in course of construction.

The dock was commenced in March last and is expected to be finished in about eight months. The dimensions are 557 feet over all; 525 feet on the floor, 82 feet entrance, and 24 feet of water on the sill.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

The following is the report for the season 1896-1897:—

To the Members of the Hongkong Cricket Club.

Gentlemen,—The Committee have the pleasure of presenting their annual report on the season 1896-1897.

The accounts which are attached show a balance of \$4,598.68 to the credit of the Club, on the 31st August, 1897.

The usual list of members together with the batting and bowling averages for the season is annexed. It will be seen that the batting average list is headed by Mr. A. G. Ward with 30.80 whilst Mr. M. D. Wood, W.Y.R. was most successful with the ball, taking 25 wickets at a cost of 9.52 per wicket.

Only one score of over 100 was made viz.: 105 by Mr. A. G. Ward.

An old member of the Club having expressed a wish to present a souvenir to the member who, in the opinion of the Committee, had the best all round record for the season 1896-97, the Committee decided by ballot that Mr. T. Sercombe Smith was best entitled to that description.

The racquet courts have been made use of by an increasingly large number of members. Both the courts as well as the quarters attached are in good repair. The internal walls have been recently coloured and minor repairs executed.

Invitations have been sent to the Shanghai and Singapore Cricket Clubs inviting eleven to visit Hongkong in the early part of the coming season and answers have been received accepting the invitations. It is proposed to play a series of inter-port matches during the second week in November when it is hoped that a great proportion of the cricket strength of the Far East may be assembled here.

The Club played 9 club matches, of which 4 were won and 5 lost. Great difficulty was experienced in getting the civilian members of the Club to play regularly or even in the more important matches.

The accommodation of the pavilion being very inadequate to the requirements of an increasing number of members, the Committee had an out-house built to the east of the pavilion for storing materials and gear. This diminishes the pressure in the dressing room and permits of the introduction of 24 additional lockers.

The pavilion is in fairly good repair and the ground is in capital order. The pitch and the practice wickets have been relaid and in spite of the fact that the ground gets more hardly used year by year as the place grows in size, and the club grows in membership, it is believed that the wickets in the coming season will be up to the standard of past years.

The Committee much regret the loss (through absence from the colony) of their popular and much respected president, Mr. Atwell Coxon, whose name has been intimately associated with the club from its earliest days, originally as one of its most enthusiastic playing members, and latterly as one whose counsel and advice were ever at the disposal of the Committee.

There are 431 members, of whom 129 are absent from the colony, and 172 naval subscribers. During the year there have been 76 new members, and 33 new naval subscribers.

The lawn tennis championship cup was won by Mr. W. Gibson, who defeated Lieut. Farie, R.N., in the final tie; the single tennis handicaps "A" and "B" classes fell to H. S. Moberly, H.K.R., and E. D. Mallinson respectively; and the "doubles" to Mr. C. C. Platt and Mr. F. H. Pellew, W.Y.R., whilst Messrs. T. S. Smith and J. M. Atkinson (Civil Service) carried off the professional pairs, and Mr. A. H. Skelton was successful in winning the veteran's handicap (a prize kindly presented by Dr. J. M. Atkinson).

A racquet tournament was held in April resulting in a win for Com. Hon. G. A. Hardinge, R.N., and Lieut. Bradshaw, R.N., for the double handicap. Colonel Gordon, W.Y.R., won the championship cup—defeating Mr. M. D. Wood, W.Y.R., in the final.

The thanks of the Club are due to the officers commanding and the officers of the Rifle Brigade, of the West Yorkshire Regiment, and of the Hongkong Regiment, as well as to Admiral Sir Alexander Buller, K.C.B., Captain Login and the officers of the flag ship, for their kindness in allowing their bands to play on the ground during the matches.

The annual meeting for the purpose of receiving the Committee's report for the past season and electing the Committee for the coming season, will be held in the pavilion on Thursday, the 30th September, at 5 p.m.

A. G. Wise, President,
A. Anderson,
Colonel Gordon, W.Y.R.
F. Maitland, Hon. Treasurer,
T. Sercombe Smith,
Chantrey Inchbald
J. M. Atkinson,
A. Donald,

EDWARD A. RAM,
Hon. Secretary.

BATTING AVERAGES. In Ten Innings and over.

Name.	Number of Innings.	Times not out.	Most in an Innings.	Runs.	Average.
A. G. Ward	17	2	105	462	30.80
T. S. Smith	15	3	80	348	29.00
P. A. Cox	10	1	64	258	25.66
Com. Sir R. K. Arbuthnot, R.N.	11	3	60	219	27.38
Lt. Perry Ayscough, R.N.	10	1	69	247	27.33
Rev. G. Vallings	16	2	91	368	26.26
Surg.-Major Johnston	15	3	37	228	19.00
K. W. Mounsey	12	1	31	162	13.50
E. Mast	15	1	39	167	11.91
H. Mackenzie	14	2	34	123	10.25

In Three Innings and over.

Name.	Number of Innings.	Times not out.	Most in an Innings.	Runs.	Average.
T. N. Howard, W.Y.R.	9	1	59	319	39.88
Capt. Eccles, R.B.	6	1	73	204	34.00
J. H. Thresher, R.B.	5	1	45	132	34.00
M. D. Wood, W.Y.R.	7	1	76	185	31.25
H. B. Bedwell, R.N.	5	1	65	125	30.83
Capt. Langhorne, R.A.	9	1	74	210	26.25
Capt. Dyson, A.P.D.	9	2	52	168	24.00
E. H. Beasley	3	1	38	68	22.66
C. W. Gordon, W.Y.R.	5	1	42	99	19.80
R. H. Hancock	3	1	42	57	19.00
Surgeon Peade, R.N.	7	1	57	124	17.71
R. F. Lammert	5	2	28	50	16.66
G. D. Campbell, H.K.R.	3	1	20	45	15.00
G. M. Thomson	3	1	20	29	14.50
J. R. Gillingham	7	2	20	69	13.80
Capt. Fergusson, R.B.	5	1	22	55	13.75
E. W. Maitland	7	1	32	75	12.50
E. A. Ram	4	1	38	48	12.00
Lieut. Plumer, R.N.	4	1	33	47	11.75
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	3	1	19	34	11.33
Lt. Bonham Carter, R.N.	4	1	29	45	11.25
Lieut. Farie, R.N.	7	1	24	67	11.17
H. Arthur	9	3	37	66	11.00
Capt. Trotman, R.M.L.I.	4	1	16	38	9.50
F. W. Christian	3	1	14	28	9.33
Lieut. Sheldford, R.N.	6	1	16	43	8.60
A. S. Anton	6	1	13	53	8.83
H. Shipway, R.N.	3	1	19	26	8.66
G. Grimble	4	1	13	22	7.66
A. Anderson	7	1	15	41	6.83
C. Inchbald	6	1	20	35	5.83
A. G. Smith	4	1	14	16	5.33
P. G. Davies, R.A.	6	1	10	28	5.60
T. S. Holland, R.B.	3	1	6	6	3.00
L. S. Crawford	5	1	4	9	1.80
F. H. Kew	3	1	1	1	0.33

The following gentlemen batted in less than three innings:—

A. D. Boden, R.B.	0	and	11
P. G. Anderson, H.K.R.	1		
P. W. Cobbold	24		
H. M. C. Elliot, R.N.	9		
Lieut. Boden-Smith, R.N.	15		
H. Green, R.A.	0		
Com. Hon. G. A. Hardinge, R.N.	41		32
G. Stewart	1		2
R. W. Skelton, R.N.	3		5
G. Paley, R.B.	2		6
R. Alexander, R.B.	6		32*
V. H. Maryatt, R.N.	0		0*
Captain Loveband	12*		3
Captain Baker-Carr, R.B.	0		0
H. Berger, H.K.R.	0		0
F. Gascoyne, R.N.	26		
F. Isacke, W.Y.R.	4		
J. Graham	0		
E. Bennetts, R.N.	12		
D. Wood	2		
F. Ryall, W.Y.R.	1		
Capt. Mercer, R.M.L.I.	4		
F. Maitland	0		
R. L. Richardson	3*		
A. Steel, R.N.	9		
E. Tomlin	5*		
W. M. Thompson, R.E.	10		
O. Stewart	0		
C. V. Percival, R.B.	6		
Captain Mould, R.E.	11		
Lieut. Morcom, R.N.	9		

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING AVERAGES. In Ten Innings and over.

Name.	No. of Innings.	No. of Balls.	No Balls.	Wides.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
M. D. Wood, W.Y.R.	10	619	...	1	56	238	25	9.52
T. N. Howard, W.Y.R.	12	680	...	...	29	324	30	10.80
T. S. Smith	17	1112	...	1	47	596	40	14.90
Rev. G. Vallings	17	1171	...	2	50	727	43	16.91
H. Mackenzie	11	541	1	...	26	334	12	27.83

In Three Innings and over.

Name.	No. of Innings.	No. of Balls.	No Balls.	Wides.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
C. W. Gordon, W.Y.R.	4	166	...	...	5	67	8	8.37
R. H. Hancock	4	372	...	...	21	165	12	13.75
G. Grimble	4	175	...	...	8	90	6	15.00
P. G. Davies, R.A.	8	354	...	...	16	216	14	15.43
J. Thresher, R.B.	4	110	...	...	4	87	5	17.40
Lt. Bonham Carter, R.N.	5	408	...	...	18	222	12	18.50
E. Mast	9	377	...	...	21	194	10	19.40
A. G. Ward	4	45	1	0	2	43	2	21.50
E. W. Maitland	7	335	...	...	10	202	8	25.25
Lt. Sheldford, R.N.	6	570	...	...	28	288	11	26.18
J. R. Gillingham	3	360	...	...	15	197	7	28.14
Capt. Eccles, R.B.	4	60	...	...	1	59	2	29.50
Com. Sir R. K. Arbuthnot, R.N.	4	180	...	...	2	99	3	33.00
H. B. Redwell, R.N.	4	143	...	...	3	140	4	35.00
R. Alexander, R.B.	3	135	...	1	4	97	2	48.50
P. A. Cox	8	375	...	...	14	216	4	54.00
L. S. Crawford	4	190	...	...	5	127	2	63.50
Ct. Langhorne, R.A.	3	85	...	...	2	65	1	65.00
R. F. Lammert	3	60	...	...	3	37	...	...
E. H. Beasley	3	35	...	...	3	38	...	...

The following members bowled in less than three innings:—

Name.	Wickets.	Runs.
P. G. Anderson, H.K.R.	3	for 37
A. D. Boden, R.B.	0	" 12
T. Bennetts, R.N.	1	" 16
G. D. Campbell, H.K.R.	1	" 3
Capt. Dyson, A.P.D.	1	" 35
T. S. Holland, R.B.	0	" 15
Lieut. Farie, R.N.	0	" 41
Surgeon-Major Johnston	0	" 14
H. M. C. Elliot, R.N.	4	" 79
S. Powell	3	" 44
F. W. Christian	5	" 99
A. Anderson	1	" 15
G. Stewart	3	" 27
F. Ryall, W.Y.R.	0	" 7
Lieut. Boden-Smith, R.N.	1	" 41
T. Shipway, R.N.	1	" 34
P. Cobbold	1	" 17
E. Tomlin	0	" 12
Lieut. Perry Ayscough, R.N.	1	" 12
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	0	" 11

The turret steamer *Elm Branch*, with a cargo of case oil from Batoum, went ashore on the Woosung Bar on the night of the 8th September. The cargo was discharged and on the night of the 9th she floated off.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 10th September.

Our worthy Acting Postmaster is being treated with much hardship. This gentleman has held the acting appointment for about a year and had reason to believe that he would be confirmed in it; but it is now reported that the Lisbon Government is about to send out another man. Since Mr. F. X. M. de Souza has been in charge of the Post Office everything in connection with the department has gone on satisfactorily and there has been an absence of the complaints that were formerly so frequent. His supercession is hard lines not only for Mr. de Souza, but also for the Treasury and for all the Macaoese. Appointments in the Government service with a pay of \$30 or \$40 a month attached to them are almost all filled by men appointed from Lisbon, with the exception of the interpreters, who of course cannot be obtained at home. It is only the most poorly paid offices that local men can hope to obtain. How, then, can the people of Macao be expected to entertain much affection for the Government that rules them in this manner? I do not mean that the Government should give all the good situations to the Macaoese, but two-thirds might be reserved for them, the remainder being filled from Portugal. The filling of appointments locally would also result in the saving of large sums of money which the Government now has to pay every year for outward and homeward passages of employés. It will be a great injustice to Mr. Souza and to Macao if that gentleman is not confirmed in his acting appointment.

A few days ago a retired police officer who was working in a private garden was beaten almost to death by three or four Chinamen, and had an arm and a leg broken. The culprits were not captured. The injured man was removed to the military hospital. The affair happened about ten o'clock in the morning and though the man cried out for help no policeman was there to give it. When will the Government supply a proper Police Force?

D. Alvaro Fornellos is now on his way to Lisbon, and I wish him a pleasant trip. Mr. Brandao de Vasconcellos is the Acting Chief Justice.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 4th September.

At last the most prolonged and trying summer on record is waning, and we are slowly again evincing an interest in the objective world. Tientsin, to quote a local wit, hibernates socially in the summer and reaches its annual climax of animation, both collective and individual, at mid-winter. This year, for the first time on record, most of our ladies and children have escaped the dangers and discomforts of our bad season by an exodus to Pei-Tai-Ho, on the Gulf of Pechili. The discovery of this really admirable sanatorium promises to modify and to improve life in the north to an indefinite degree; and I should not be surprised if, later on, when communication is improved, it brings comfort and strength to many a valetudinarian from southern latitudes. Hong-kong and Shanghai now send their ladies, when they are a-weary of Japan or when the dollar-mill grinds slow, to Chefoo; but Chefoo is not comparable to Pei-Tai-Ho in anything but accessibility and food supply. As regards the former Pei-Tai-Ho is distant 152 miles from Tientsin and 125 from Tongku (the port at the river mouth) and is reached by a lethargic railway train in eight hours. The station is between four and five miles distant from the coast; but the station-master renders assistance to pilgrims by means of Hongkong mountain chairs, carms, and donkeys good enough to be almost characterized as blood animals. A post office is now in existence and is as trustworthy and punctual as the average littoral *saun-chu*.

As regards food supply things are yet crude; fish, eggs, fowl, and a very limited stock of vegetables (Indian corn, sweet potato, and bean) can be purchased locally, but ice, flesh, groceries, &c., have all to be forwarded from Tientsin. This state of affairs would be pro-

hibitive to Shanghai or Hongkong visitors, but next year will probably see it completely changed. Ice can be stored locally if the natives are taught how to do it, and some of our local retailers or an enterprising Chinaman will assuredly open a general store, to say nothing of a hotel.

Bathing is excellent and safe and can be indulged in for five months in the year by old and young and even longer by the robust.

Peking higher officialdom is lost in the intoxication of high finance. Li Hung-chang divides his time largely between the Board of Revenue and the Tsung-li Yamen. People here say that the Hooley-Jameson overtures have been rejected. I am, however, credibly informed that at the present moment they are much nearer success than failure. Mr. Platt, of Shanghai, who chaperoned the financiers up North, has returned with them in order to interview the indispensable Sheng Taotai, and it is understood both here and in the capital that they will be back within a fortnight. The great banks and rival syndicates may announce failure as loud as they please, and it certainly seems to please them to do so, but as a matter of very high probability things at present are not tending that way. Such hesitation as there is lies on the syndicate side and may be summed up in one word, "security."

The Pei-Ho river improvement scheme is now awaiting the sanction of Peking. The Viceroy, Customs, Taotai, Foreign Consuls, and Chamber of Commerce have thrashed the question out and have practically united to commend Mr. A. de Linde's scheme as the initial step. This scheme involves the training of the lower reaches and the closing of the great canals, so as to increase the scour both by narrowing the channel and increasing the volume of water. It means an expense of about a quarter of a million taels; of this sum Wang Wen Shé memorializes Peking that he can supply Tls. 150,000; the balance will possibly be raised by a mixed commission, interest and sinking fund to be provided by an insignificant increase in the shipping dues. Should these measures prove inadequate, the Chinese do not hesitate to say they will be prepared to strengthen the tide-way by cutting a new bed at a further cost of half-a-million. This cutting would run for eight miles in a straight line from the Tientsin Reach, and would obviate many acute bends and difficult navigation over a present tortuous course of twenty miles. The "cutting" for very obvious reasons has had powerful advocacy among the native minor officials; on its own merits it can also be commended, but the course advised by the Consuls and other foreign bodies is in every way to be preferred.

The anticipations regarding Mr. Woo Jem Pao's restoration to the directorate of the Tientsin-Shanhaikwan Railway have not been realized, much to the regret of everybody who wants to see intelligence combined with honesty in native administration. By-the-by, in a recent paragraph you quoted Mr. Woo as *Ex-Compradore* of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Tientsin; I have pleasure in stating that the "ex" is superfluous.

Woo Taotai has never been popular with the hungry crowd of expectant Taotais and minor officials. He is *anathma maranatha* to the ignorant scholars and yamen parasites simply because he is a self-made man, no sycophant, and is possibly deficient in the classics. At present he is the object of more than usual detraction in connection with the discredit of the new Pei-yang dollar. This coin was in some cases issued 2 and 3 per cent. below its stated weight, whereupon the two British Banks refused to accept it as equivalent for the honest Mexican or British dollars. Of course there was a terrible outcry, as this initiative was followed up by the money changers and bullion men in the city. The Peiyang's reputation was imperilled. The authorities promptly sent for the native hong people and brought pressure upon them *more sinico*; but of course they could not intimidate the British Banks. Still, they had the satisfaction of putting whatever discredit the agitation had brought about to the account of Mr. Woo.

Curiously enough, the German and Russian Banks accepted the discredited dollar. The fact is that the issues are not all marked by

shortage in weight or fineness. There is no conceivable doubt where the whole crux lies, viz., in the manufacture of the coins. The official in charge evidently did not know that the reputation of coinage is as delicate as that of Caesar's wife; they probably were commending their self-restraint in only lessening the weight by two hundredths.

The Peking Railway is rapidly approaching completion. The service of trains is of course far from what it will be when the cars, engines, and permanent way are finished. Even as it is the trains are examined, and the receipts are between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a day. The Baldwin locomotives have arrived and are now being erected. When this line is in working order, it will be the greatest "objective lesson" in the Chinese Empire: not only will comfort, speed, and economy displace their opposites, but the line will pay splendidly if decently administered, and will open up endless vistas of new offices, elastic finance, &c., to Peking's impecunious officials.

HONGKONG.

The colony appeared to be in imminent peril of a typhoon on Friday, but fortunately the fears were not realized, although rather a heavy gale blew for a few hours. Many steamers arriving here had a nasty experience of the disturbance, the worst perhaps that of the *Arratoon Apar*, which had a very rough and dangerous passage. In the Supreme Court several cases of interest have been heard during the week. On Thursday the Sanitary Board held a meeting. On Saturday night a man murdered his wife in Hongkong and then escaped from the colony.

The New Club was opened on the 22nd September.

The meeting of the Legislative Council fixed for Monday last has been postponed *sine die*.

There were 1,957 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 177 were Europeans.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to recognise Mr. S. Takagi as in charge of the Japanese Consulate.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 16.5, and for the Chinese community 19.5.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Queen's exequatur empowering Signor Ugo Nervegna to act as Consul for Italy at Hongkong has received Her Majesty's signature.

The Austrian steamer *Gisela*, from Trieste 23rd July, reports:—In lat. 20 N., long. 112 E., the 17th at 3 to 6 p.m., met a typhoon force in full power and heavy sea from everywhere; lost two boats and others damaged.

At a meeting of the Jubilee Lodge of Instruction held at Freemason's Hall on Saturday night Worshipful Brother G. A. Caldwell read an exceedingly interesting and instructive paper on "The doctrine of Freemasonry." The reader was listened to with much pleasure and at the conclusion he was heartily thanked for his able address.

Messrs. Lutgens, Einstmann & Co., General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, inform us that telegraphic advice has been received from Mr. Carl Georg, from the mines at Mount McDonald, to the effect that all preliminary arrangements have been completed and that work is being started at once.

The following are the lecturers at the College of Medicine for Chinese for the session which commenced on 15th Sept.:—Surgery, Dr. Rennie; Materia Medica, Dr. Thomson; Osteology, Senior Students; Physiology, Dr. Clark; Medical Jurisprudence, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai; Chemistry, Surgeon Gilmour, R.N.; Pathology, Dr. Carvalho; Anatomy, Dr. Paulun; Practice of Medicine, Dr. Jordan. There are at present thirteen students on the roll.

The *Straits Times* of the 7th September says:—The steamer *Kutsang* arrived at Singapore yesterday afternoon from China. The captain reported to the Police that, during the previous night, a band of coolies got together, seized a Chinese coolie recruiter, and threw him overboard. He was not recovered. In consequence of this information, the Police yesterday made thirteen arrests. A similar case occurred quite recently on board the steamer *On Sang*, and five coolies will be charged with that murder at the Assizes this week.

Extract from Hongkong Blue Book:—"Political Franchise, Nil." This item is honoured with a full page of foolscap to itself.

It is reported that a committee of the Executive Council, consisting of Colonel Elsdale, R.E., the Attorney-General, and the Hon. C. P. Chater, has been appointed to consider what proportion of their pension, if any, should be allowed to the officers upon whom suspicion has fallen in connection with the bribery scan. dal.

On the 18th September at 7 a.m., the firemen were called to a fire which had broken out in a Chinese house at Quarry Bay. Fortunately, however the flames were controlled by the firemen of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery, whose prompt work rendered the assistance of the brigade unnecessary. The origin of this fire is also unknown.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 7th September, translated by the *Kobe Chronicle*, reads:—To-day's *Shogyo Shimpo* publishes a Hongkong telegram of the 6th inst., stating that owing to the fall of silver numerous orders for sugar are being received by the manufacturers, and sugar dealers have agreed to raise the price by 30 sen per picul.

We hear that the two large houses above Queen's Gardens belonging to the late Mr. Poesnecker have been purchased by the Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, Limited. As this Company already owns St. Andrews it is now the possessor of all three houses on that level. We understand that the price paid was considerably less than the actual cost to the late owner.

The British barque *Fannie Scholfield*, from Singapore to Shanghai with a cargo of hardwood, arrived here on the 21st Sept., having put in for repairs. She was caught in the recent typhoon, in which the cargo in the hold broke adrift, severely straining the ship, and as she was leaking badly and the shaft of the pump was broken, rendering the starboard pump useless, she made for the nearest port.

The Straits Cricket team to visit Hongkong will leave Singapore, as now arranged, by the P. & O. steamer *Rosetta* on October 25th, arriving in time to allow of a few practice games. On Monday and Tuesday, 8th and 9th November, the Straits will play Hongkong. On Wednesday and Thursday Hongkong will play Shanghai, and on Friday and Saturday the Straits will meet Shanghai. The Straits team will leave Hongkong on November 18th, presumably by a P. & O. steamer, returning to Singapore about November 23rd.—*Singapore Free Press*.

Lieutenant Cruickshank, R.A., charged a coolie at the Police Court on the 21st Sept. with stealing \$1. Prosecutor placed three \$5 notes and two silver dollars in a drawer of his dressing table and then took his bath. On returning he found one of the silver dollars missing and as the coolie was the only servant in the house prosecutor charged him with the theft. The dollar was not found on the prisoner, who denied the charge. The Magistrate considered the evidence sufficient to order the accused to enter into recognizances to be of good behaviour for three months.

Mr. T. W. Quincey, son of ex-Inspector Quincey, has been dismissed from the Government service, the allegation against him being that he had accepted bribes. He was in the Registrar-General's department, and for some months past he has been at Peking studying the Mandarin dialect, but he was recalled from there a few weeks ago. He was a very intelligent young man of great promise. His case was inquired into by the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Crown Solicitor. We also understand that one or two Indian police sergeants have been reduced to the ranks.

Two raids on gambling houses were inquired into by the Magistrate on 20th Sept. In a house in Centre Street nine men were caught by Inspector Hennessey. The two principals were fined \$50 each and the remainder \$5 each. Police Sergeant Gillies had charge of the second case, which came from Peel Street. On a Chinese constable entering the house a man who was on watch at the door shouted upstairs and told the gamblers to run away. The police, however, caught several men although ingenious means of escape were found in the house. The two keepers were fined \$150 each and the others \$25 each.

There is great promise that the Hongkong Volunteer Corps will have its own drum and fife band early this season. Several members of the Corps, as well as trumpeters and signallers, have lately been having steady practice at headquarters and considerable progress has been made. There are one or two very accomplished drummers and fife players among the members and the establishment of the band has given satisfaction generally. We hope the band will have a highly successful career, as it is bound to increase the popularity of the Corps.

Two Spanish gentlemen from Manila came to Hongkong about a month ago to learn English. They were recently having dinner at the Hongkong Hotel when one of the boys, who had a strong objection to serving anyone with a dark skin, made use of a very objectionable expression in English. The two Spaniards were sufficiently acquainted with the language to know the meaning of the term and they at once showed their wrath by striking him and also throwing some water on him. For this the boy summoned the two men for assault and the case was heard at the Police Court on 16th September. Mr. Holmes appeared for the boy and Mr. Mounsey for the men. The boy denied being insolent and said he was assaulted merely because he had accidentally dropped a piece of ice into a glass of water, causing the water to splash on one of the defendants. The defendants proceeded by way of cross summons against the boy for using insulting language. After hearing both sides the Magistrate expressed the opinion that the boy had been insolent and had received such treatment as he deserved. Both summonses were dismissed.

The twenty carcasses of frozen Australian mutton which were consigned to Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. by Messrs. Ford, Ruthven & Co., of Sydney, were all sold on 15th Sept., although they arrived only on the 13th. The purchasers were the Hongkong Hotel, the Canadian Pacific Company, and a number of private residents. The mutton was declared to be of excellent taste and quality and a delicious change from that which is usually retailed in Hongkong. Owing to the fall in exchange the selling price was more than was anticipated, being 18 cents per lb., but we doubt whether anyone grumbled at the unexpected increased cost. It has been suggested in some quarters that it would be good policy if the army and navy on this station were supplied with Australian mutton. If that could be arranged cold stores could soon be erected to hold 20,000 to 30,000 carcasses and the cost to the general public, providing exchange went up a little, would not be much greater, if indeed it would be any greater, than China mutton. The idea is certainly a good one and has many points to commend it to the consideration of the military and naval authorities.

It is with much regret we have to record the death of Mr. G. R. Lammert, which occurred on the morning of the 21st Sept. at the Peak Hotel. Mr. Lammert had been suffering for some time from a painful affection of the kidneys accompanied by fever and a few weeks ago was taken up to the Peak in the hope that the change of climate would reduce the fever and render the disease more tractable. Unfortunately this hope was not realised, and the end came yesterday morning. The deceased gentleman was one of the oldest and best known members of the community, having been resident in the colony for over forty years, during the whole of which time he had followed the business of an auctioneer, first in conjunction with Mr. Atkinson under the firm name of Lammert, Atkinson & Co., and afterwards on his own account. Having a ready wit and pronounced personality he made an ideal auctioneer, always keeping the attendance in good humour. Mr. Lammert was married in Hongkong and leaves a widow and a family of grown-up sons and daughters, with whom much sympathy will be felt in their bereavement. The funeral took place on the morning of the 22nd and was very largely attended. H.E. the Governor was represented by Captain Phillips, A.D.C., and there were also present Sir John Carrington, Chief Justice, Herr von Loeper, German Consul, Hon. F. H. May, and Hon. T. H. Whitehead. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold. The flags of the German Club and of several honggs were half-masted.

It is a very rare occurrence in this colony for a fire to break out in a European house. On 19th Sept., however, the firemen were summoned to extinguish a fire which had broken out at mid-day on the top floor of No. 5, Wild Dell Buildings, a house occupied by Mr. John Plinston, school teacher. Two rooms on the floor sustained damage to the extent of about \$300. The cause of the fire was explained at an inquiry held at the Magistracy on the 21st. Mr. Plinston said he was about to fill a lamp from a kerosene tin when he slipped and fell, thereby upsetting the tin. He was lighting his pipe at the time and the match set the oil on fire. His goods were not insured. Sergeant Macdonald said there were no suspicious circumstances in the case and his Worship released the premises.

It is really not worth the trouble to attempt to escape from Victoria Goal. The other day a prisoner whose time had expired was induced to change his coat with another man whose term of imprisonment had not expired and for this he was sent to goal for six months. On 20th Sept. the principal character in the plot was taken before the Magistrate and charged with attempting to escape from the goal. Chief Warder Craig said the prisoner was admitted to the goal on the 9th inst. and his release would have taken place on 20th Sept. On the 15th inst., however, he presented himself in the office wearing a jacket which bore the number of a time-expired prisoner's name, but unfortunately for him his description, weight, and height did not properly tally and thus the trick was exposed. The Magistrate sent him to prison for six months with hard labour.

May we again venture to call the attention of the Government to the condition of that particularly foul drain on the Praya in front of the P. & O. Office. On Saturday morning streams of abominably dirty water flowed from it, and the stench was most sickening. Of course there may be some highly refined scientific explanation forthcoming which will easily upset the theories advanced by ordinary people possessed merely of common sense, but until such explanation is given we feel bound to adhere to the opinion that the water was foul and that the smell was a vile stink. Further, we shall, until getting a similar explanation, firmly believe that the masonry of the old Praya wall should have been taken away at a more opportune time than the present; or at any rate that the deep trench caused by the removal of the granite blocks should have been immediately filled in so as to give support to the concrete backing. If this had been done it is reasonable to suppose that several yards' length of concrete about a yard wide would not have slipped and that the electric wire posts would not have been in such danger of falling as to necessitate their being propped up with bamboo poles. But as we have said, there may be a satisfactory scientific explanation of all this bungling.

Two women and one little boy were charged at the Police Court on 16th Sept. with attempting to commit suicide. The case was rather an extraordinary one. On Sunday evening P. S. Macanlay was on duty on the Praya, near the Canton wharf, when he learned that somebody was in the water. Without waiting to divest himself of any clothing the officer jumped into the water and very quickly brought to the surface a woman. To his great astonishment another woman came to the surface and then followed a boy of tender years. Both women struggled to get free from the sergeant's grasp, but a Chinese boatman pluckily dived into the water and went to his assistance, the result being that all three were brought safely to the shore. They were taken to the Government Civil Hospital, where they were detained until Tuesday evening. It seems that the women are sisters, and the boy is the son of one of them. Both women were in a dire state of poverty, and the mother of the boy resolved to drown herself and her child. Her sister decided to die with her and they therefore jumped into the water with the boy in order to end their misery. The Magistrate adjourned the case for a week and congratulated Macanlay and the boatman on their prompt and plucky conduct. They had undoubtedly saved three lives.

Another case of attempted suicide came before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse at the Magistracy on 20th September. On Saturday a woman jumped into the harbour but was fortunately rescued by a boatman who pluckily dived into the water. The woman's friends agreed to take care of her and she was bound over in her own recognizances to be of good behaviour for six months. In connection with various rescues in the harbour this year it would serve a very useful purpose if the boatmen who have risked their lives to save others were given some public recognition of their services. We believe there are some boatmen who have an excellent record of life-saving and some recognition of their acts would not only be most encouraging to them but would serve as an incentive to others to do brave deeds when occasion required.

The report of the Committee of the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society for presentation to the sixteenth annual general meeting to be held at the City Hall on Friday next states that during the year five applications for assistance from the charitable fund were received. After full investigation grants-in-aid were given in two deserving cases amounting to \$20.62 and \$210 respectively, or a total of \$230.62 for the year. The Committee did not feel justified in assisting the other three applicants from the charity fund, but they are pleased to be able to report that in two of the cases employment was found for the men, whilst the third applicant, a young seagoing Scotchman, was found employment after having been kept in board and lodging for a fortnight at the expense of several members of the Society. The balance now to the credit of the Society is \$3,047.25 as against \$2,791.41 last year, when the sum of \$35 was spent on charitable purposes. Thirty-six new members have joined the Society during the year, as compared with thirteen during the previous year, being an increase of twenty-three. Reference is made to the St. Andrew's Ball and Burns Concert. The Committee deeply regret to record the deaths of four members, Messrs. C. E. Hume, John Mathieson, David K. Shiman, and John Wallace.

The Mount Austin Hotel closed its doors on 16th Sept. at noon, when the military entered into possession and proceeded to post their fire guards. The hotel went down with its colours flying, the flagstaff being adorned with no less than two, a large one and a small one, both considerably tattered, but which fluttered gaily in the fresh northerly breeze and bright sunshine. The boarders who have enjoyed the comforts of the hotel have all left it with much regret and the closing of such a splendid establishment can only be regarded as a public misfortune, not only for the colony, but for all the neighbouring ports. It was an ideal sanatorium, answering to the hydropathic establishments which are so popular at home barring the hydropathy, which is in many of them a negligible quantity. Had it continued in existence as a hotel there was every prospect of its achieving financial success, for it was becoming year by year more popular and the summer prices might have been considerably increased. It took the public a long time, however, to get educated to the advantages of the hotel, and they only began to appreciate it at its proper value when they were fated to lose it. So far there has been rather a lean living for two hotels, but now that the Peak Hotel has the field to itself it ought to show returns that the proprietor can contemplate with satisfaction. We only hope that that establishment will not share the fate of Mount Austin and also be transferred to the military, but if the experiment of housing a portion of the troops at the latter is as successful as it is expected to be it is quite on the cards that the War Office authorities might desire the acquisition of another fine building that could be readily converted into barracks. Meantime, however, it is satisfactory to know that the Peak Hotel is wisely making use of its opportunity and laying itself out to secure the best part of the business that has hitherto been divided between it and the Mount Austin. It is probable that next summer Craigieburn, which is at present let to the Government as a summer residence for the Governor, will be opened to public use as an annexe to the Peak Hotel.

The hon. treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—The trustees, Zoroastrian Charity Fund, \$250.

Round about the Government Offices some desirable improvements are being effected. A new road is being made to branch from one of the pathways leading from the cathedral and it will extend to the Volunteer Parade Ground, thus giving a short cut for those people who wish to go to the north-east of the Government offices. The gradient of the new road will be relieved by steps at short intervals. The Volunteer Parade Ground is also being improved. The turfed portion is being extended on three sides by the taking up and turling of the gravel walks.

On Wednesday, 15th Sept. a plot of land containing 801,000 square feet, on Kowloon Marine Lot No. 40, was sold by public auction by Mr. C. C. Malsch, Superintendent of Crown Lands. The upset price was \$16,020 and the rental is \$1,212. The lot was knocked down to Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co. for \$16,015. It is understood that the ground will be occupied by the Hongkong branch of the Green Island Cement Company. On Tuesday, three inland lots to the west of the market at Hung-hom were purchased by Mr. Ho Tung for \$5,373, or \$30 above the upset price. Each of these lots contains 7,125 square feet, and the yearly Crown rent is \$50 in each case.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Saico Steam Navigation Co., of Hyogo, has opened an office at Shanghai and intends to establish a line of steamers from that port to Formosa. This company has been in existence, as a private concern, for something like thirteen years, and some two years ago was made into a limited liability company. Their steamers, seven in number, have up to the present been engaged in the trade between Newchwang, Tientsin, and Japan, and have also been running to Formosa.

The *Straits Times* says:—The Hokien and Taichew twakow owners have been agitating during the last few days for an increase of the lighterage rates. They held a meeting the other evening, and decided to demand \$1½ for a twakow from the river to the roads instead of \$1 as at present. For a boat of half twakow size they agreed to demand 75 cents instead of 50 cents. Other journeys will be charged in proportion. As to demurrage they decided on 50 cents for the first night, and a dollar for each succeeding night. These new rates principally affect Chinese merchants, and we are informed that they have been agreed to all round.

Fire broke out on the morning of the 9th September just after midnight at the Phoenix Saw Mills, Yokohama, originating in the drying room, and being caused probably, says the *Advertiser*, by some coolie knocking out the live ashes of his pipe on some of the timber. There was no wind, and as there are no fewer than six wells on the compound—one an artesian well the water of which is always flush with the ground—plenty of water was available and the flames were got under quickly, but not before the drying room had been burned out. No injury was done to the machinery or to the other buildings. The total damage is estimated at \$2,000, partly covered by insurance.

"The Moralist" of the *Straits Times* writes:—"Ah," said the Old Merchant to me, the other day, "Twenty years ago, when I was a shipping clerk, I brought my tiffin down to the office sharing a gharry with someone, and I walked back. It would have been almost as much as my job was worth to have been caught in tiffin rooms during business hours, and it would have been high treason to take tiffin at a hotel. Nowadays, our assistants regard it as a right to indulge in their morning drinks; to have their traps; to take tiffin out; and generally to let everyone know on the face of it that they are spending a great deal more than they can possibly earn—firms not being fools any more than they were twenty years ago. Yet, they all claim exchange compensation. I have no sympathy with such a claim. Let these young men do as we did in much more prosperous days."

The China Merchants' steamer *Leeyuen*, Captain Johns, which arrived at Shanghai on the 15th September, from Newchwang and Chefoo, reports having rescued eight men from a capsized junk on the 11th and taken them on board the light vessel, after which the *Leeyuen* returned to the junk and rescued four more men who were imprisoned inside the cabin. To do this the chief mate and the carpenter boarded the junk and cut a hole in her bottom. It appears that the junk had capsized during the gale on the 10th. The four men were taken on board the pilot schooner.—*China Gazette*.

Dr. Howard E. Ames, who was recently on this station with the U. S. cruiser *Detroit*, has been appointed to succeed Dr. Fitzsimmons in charge of the U. S. Naval Hospital at Yokohama. Dr. Ames will be remembered as the officer who found Lieut. Peary and the survivors of his Arctic Expedition over a decade ago. He is a very tall and equally genial man, a most interesting conversationalist and deservedly one of the most popular medical officers in Uncle Sam's Navy. He delivered a very interesting lecture on Arctic exploration before the Shanghai Literary and Debating Society some time ago.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

A despatch received from Shanhaikuan reports that owing to a disastrous downpour of rain at the beginning of this month in that region, the mountain freshets washed away a large portion of the foundations of the railway bridge at Shihmen, on the Tientsin-Shanhaikuan Railway, making it unsafe for trains to cross and preventing them from reaching Shanhaikuan itself. Through the energy and personal superintendence of the Chief Engineer of the road, Mr. Kinder, and the hearty assistance of his subordinates and a very large force of navvies, who worked with a will, the damages were repaired within twenty-four hours, Mr. Kinder being personally commended for his skill and promptitude by the Directors.—*N. C. Daily News*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 17th September. — From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were dated 3rd ultimo. Black Teas.—Common whole-leaf Teas have strengthened and it is now difficult to buy under Teas 13 a picul. The better qualities show very little change.

Settlements reported are:—
Ningchow...1,750 ½-chts. at Tls. 11.00 to 21.00 a picul.
Keemun ... 320 " " 20.00 to " "
Wenchow... 180 " " 16.00 to " "
Oonam1,994 " " 12.75 to 16.50 " "
Oopak 703 " " 12.75 to 14.75 " "

5,060 ½-chts.

Stock, 8,862 ½-chests.

Green Teas.—Pingsueys.—The few settlements reported are said to be almost entirely on Native account. The uncertainty as to the working of the United States Legislation in regard to shutting out Tea is deterring buyers from operating at present. So far as we can learn the actual quantity "shut out" to date is small, but the quality of some of the rejected Teas is so good that it is difficult to see on what grounds the Inspectors acted, and if it be true that of a chop divided between two buyers one half was admitted and the other not, it is enough to make buyers pause before investing further in the article. No Pingsuey we have seen of this season's crop is unfit for human food, and this alone should be the reason for "shutting out." We have always advocated still stronger measures, and are still of opinion that all so called Tea unfit for food should be seized and destroyed, and the Importers should be heavily fined. Country Teas are fetching almost famine prices and native Teamen are making enormous profits. Some excellent Teas continue to be received from the Tienkai districts, but the Moyunes show a marked falling off even on the first "packs," which we have already remarked were below the average quality. Fychows are taken readily at full prices. Local Packs are being bought for price. Pingsuey leaf has been mixed with some of them, and Teamen are satisfied with the sales they have made. Hyons have continued in strong demand especially for "choiceest;" we can quote no reduction in price.

Settlements reported since 3rd instant:—

Pingsuey4,132 ½-chts. at Tls. 20 to 33½ a picul.
Moyune8,524 " " 22 to 50 " "

[Lines Tls. 62,

Tienkai8,402 ½-chts. at Tls. 22½ to 46 a picul.
Fychow1,545 " " 20 to 30 " "
Local packed. 972 " " 22 to 32½ " "

Total 23,575 ½-chts.

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

	Settlements.		Stock.	
	½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.
	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
Pingsuey	55,221	60,492	24,365	15,901
Moyune	42,131	31,092	9,093	22,361
Tienkai	40,756	24,403		
Fychow	12,803	11,365		
Local packed.	13,253	6,901	439	968
Total.....	164,170	138,241	33,807	39,233

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	3,228,419	3,471,987
Shanghai and Hankow ...	10,031,783	14,783,294
Foochow	9,480,060	10,062,875
Amoy	346,260	379,122
Total.....	23,086,522	28,697,278

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	9,915,378	6,541,087
Amoy	7,187,157	6,998,012
Foochow	4,850,230	4,632,561
Total.....	21,952,765	18,224,660

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow.....	10,375,665	22,544,712

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	18,448,967	15,515,625
Kobe	9,682,782	6,707,867
Total.....	28,131,749	22,223,492

SILK.

CANTON, 8th September.—The 5th crop hat chings progress very favourably and a full yield is looked for. Tsatless and Re-reels—Are steady at about previous rates. Filatures.—A small demand has ruled for Lyons, but business is very difficult owing to the firmness of holders. From prices paid we quote: \$780/770 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13 and 13/15, \$760/750 for Kwong Lun Fung 11/13 and Kwong Lun On 11/13 and 13/15, \$730 for Kwong Wo Hing 13/15, \$720 for Cheong Kee 10/12, \$710 for Kum King Cheong 15/15, \$700 for Lee King Lun and Sun Yn Lun 13/15. Short-reels—Have been in fair demand for Lyons. From prices paid we quote: \$707/695 for Chnn Sun Hang, Yee Wo Loong and Yan Hing Cheong 14/15, \$680 for Man Po Sing 14/46. Waste.—Steam Waste continues in good demand and prices are very firm. Stocks:—700 bales Tsatless and 400 bales Filatures.

SHANGHAI, 17th September.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London telegrams to 14th September report a firm market. Gold Kilins 9/0, Bale Elephants 9/10½. Raw Silk.—Prices are nominally unchanged. Business during the week has been nil, owing to the fluctuations in Exchange. Yellow Silks.—Settlements of 155 bales are reported. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 9th to 15th September: 1,231 bales White, 853 piculs Yellow and 419 piculs Wild Silk. Re-Reels and Filatures.—100 bales of Hand Filatures X reel for the American market have been settled. In Steam Filatures there is a difference of about 1½. 50 between buyers and sellers. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows:—London 6 bales, Continent 1,501 bales, American 1,734 bales and Japan 4 bales. Waste Silk.—The following purchases are reported:—100 piculs. Hankow Frisonnets (whole bales) at Tls. 21. 6 piculs Rat Tails (whole bales) at Tls. 17. 50 piculs White Coarse Gum 6 per cent. 30 per cent. 10 per cent. at Tls. 60. Dealers are very firm.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/5½; Freight Tls. 6.50 per bale:—

	Tls. Stlg. per pol. lb.
Yellow Silk.—	
Mienchew	360 7 0
Meeyang	360 7 0
Fooyung	355 7 7 1/2
Wongchow	307 1/2 6 8
Szechong	250 1/2 5 7
Hand Filatures.—	
Gold Flying Dragon Croisee Ex. No. 1 and No. 2 ave. price. }	610 12 10 1/2
Buffalo 1, 2 & 3 Croisee	585 12 4

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98 bales.	1896-97 bales.
Shanghai	23,854	10,710
Canton	9,134	9,276
Yokohama	2,044	491
	35,032	20,477

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98 bales.	1896-97 bales.
Shanghai	3,275	360
Canton	4,540	547
Yokohama	3,285	449
	11,100	1,356

CAMPION

HONGKONG, 22nd September.—The market is again weaker. Quotations for Ferosa are nominally \$47.75 to \$48.00. Sales, 280 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 22nd September.—The firmness last reported has relaxed and prices have somewhat fallen, the market closing weak. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.25 to 7.23 per picul.
do. „ 2, White...	6.76 to 6.79 „
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.59 to 4.61 „
do. „ 2, Brown...	4.45 to 4.45 „
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.20 to 7.22 „
do. „ 2, White...	6.68 to 6.71 „
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.50 to 4.52 „
do. „ 2, Brown...	4.41 to 4.44 „
Soochow Sugar Candy	11.07 to 11.10 „
Shekloong „	9.67 to 9.70 „

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The O. & O. steamer *Doric*, sailed on the 2nd September. For San Francisco:—428 packages tea and 20 cases silk goods. For La Libertad:—12 cases silk goods. For La Union:—1 case silk goods. For San José de Guatemala:—15 cases silk goods. For Corinto:—1 case silk goods. For Champerico:—1 case silk goods. Guayaquil:—1 cases silk goods. New York:—568 bales raw silk.

The British bark *Heathbank*, sailed on the 4th September. For San Francisco:—4,000 bales hemp, 1,063 packages tea, 676 bales gambier 49 bales kapok, 77 packages firecrackers, 478 packages rice flour, 330 boxes nut oil, 406 bags pepper, 1,364 bags sago, 2,309 empty quicksilver flasks, 50 bales cassia, 21 packages camphorwood trunks, 1,500 bags sugar, 96 boxes bird seeds and 15,151 packages merchandise.

The steamer *Saghalien*, sailed on the 16th September. For France:—445 bales raw silk, 10 cases silk piece goods, 10 cases essential oil, 58 cases bristles, 200 cases cassia, 31 packages hair and 701 packages tea.

The steamer *Maria Valerie*, sailed on the 16th September. For Trieste:—4,095 cases cassia lignea, 50 cases cassia buds, 50 bales cassia broken, 156 bales canes and 4 cases China ink, 2 cases essential oil, 5 cases curios, gongs, and blackwoodware, 15 cases fans, 2 cases hair, 17 bales matting, 205 bales rattans, 511 cases tea, 50 bags shells and 25 bales galangul. For Galatz:—426 cases tea. For Costanza:—5 boxes chinaware, 1 case curios, gongs and blackwoodware, 1 bale matting and 1 bale silk. For Aden:—50 cases matches and 500 bags sugar. For Odessa:—1 case fans. For Natal:—1 1/2 tons sundries. For Knrachi:—500 bags sugar. For Bombay:—50 cases cassia lignea, 30 bags galangul, 15 pieces trunks, 11,478 bags rice, 2,900 bags sugar and 15 cwt. sundries. For Colombo:—10 baskets China root, 77 cases firecrackers, 1,533 bags sugar and 66 boxes dried ginger preserves.

The steamer *Nestor*, sailed on the 12th Sept. For London:—10,407 boxes tea (179,968 lbs.), from Amoy, 160 cases essential oil, 45 cases cigars, 18 cases blackwoodware, 16 cases china-ware, 5 cases curios, 10 cases feathers, 5,437 cases and 775 casks preserves, 1,850 bales hemp, 180 bales pierced cocoons, 248 rolls matting, 998 pieces hides, 42 packages rattanware, 225 packages shells and 11 packages sundries. For Manchester:—410 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—2,790 bales hemp and 1 package sundries. For Hamburg:—7 cases shells and 50 casks ginger. For Glasgow:—5 cases blackwoodware, 1 case camphorwoodware, 50 cases and 15 casks ginger. For Buenos Ayres:—200 packages tea. For Buenos Ayres and/or Montevideo:—200 packages tea.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 22nd September.—Bengal.—A further fall has taken place in prices owing to continued improvement of the exchange on India. Current quotations are \$720 for New Patna, and \$717 1/2 for New Benares.

Malwa.—There has been a fair amount of business doing in this drug during the interval. Prices have advanced to some small extent, the following being the latest figures:—

New (this yr's) \$880 with allance of 1 1/2 to 3 cts.	
„ (last „) \$900 „ 1 1/2 to 2 „	
Old (2/5 „) \$920 „ 0 to 1 1/2 „	
„ (6/9 „) \$950 „ 1/2 to 2 1/2 „	

Persian.—Inferior qualities have receded in value, prices continuing unchanged for other descriptions. Oily drug is quoted at \$500 to \$680, and Paper-wrapped at \$550 to \$725 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,390 chests.
New Benares	520 „
Malwa	290 „
Persian	590 „

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sept. 15	727 1/2	—	727 1/2	—	880 900 920 950	—
Sept. 16	732 1/2	—	730	—	880 900 920 950	—
Sept. 17	732 1/2	—	730	—	880 900 920 950	—
Sept. 18	730	—	730	—	880 900 920 950	—
Sept. 19	727 1/2	—	727 1/2	—	880 900 920 950	—
Sept. 20	727 1/2	—	727 1/2	—	880 900 920 950	—
Sept. 21	720	—	717 1/2	—	880 900 920 950	—
Sept. 22	720	—	717 1/2	—	880 900 920 950	—

COTTON.

COTTON, 22nd September.—Nominal. Stock, about 3,750 bales.

Bombay	\$17.00 to 17.50 p. pl.
Kurrachee	16.00 to 17.25 „
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca	19.00 to 21.00 „
Shanghai and Japanese ..	23.00 to 24.00 „
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	23.00 to 24.00 „
Madras (Best)	18.00 to 19.50 „

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd September.—The fall in price of Saigon Rice and of Siam Field and Garden as last reported, still continues; but Siam White and Fine Cargo have fetched better rates. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.65 to 2.67
„ Round, good quality	2.77 to 2.80
„ Long	2.90 to 2.95
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.70 to 2.75
„ Garden, „ No. 1 ..	2.95 to 2.99
„ White	3.96 to 4.00
„ Fine Cargo	4.16 to 4.20

COALS.

HONGKONG, 22nd September.—Market steady; sale of 15,000 tons Japanese on private terms. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$16.50 to 18.00 ex ship.
Australian	{ 8.75 small. 11.00 lump.
Milke Lump	10.00 to 11.00 ex ship, nominal
Milke Small	9.00 to 10.00 none offering
Moji Lump	8.00 to 9.50 ex ship, sales

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd September.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Rombay Yarn.—75 bales No. 8 at \$59 to \$90, 1,085 bales No. 10 at \$91 to \$100.50, 215 bales No. 12 at \$94 to \$99, 30 bales No. 16 at \$99.50, 1,000 bales No. 20 at

\$108 to \$114.50. White Shirtings.—250 pieces Cathed No. 500 at \$3.65. Tea Cloths.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.50, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.85.

METALS.—Tin.—300 bales Foongchai at \$39.50, 100 bales Siam at \$39.50. Lead.—588 piculs Australia at \$8.80 to \$9. Quicksilver.—300 flasks at \$125.50 to \$126.

SHANGHAI, 16th September.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report).—The settling day is passed and over without any outward and visible signs of trouble amongst the trade, but it is rumoured that some doubtful cases have been carried over; the prospect, however, of the delinquents bettering their position looks extremely precarious. The apparently speculative unrest the other side of the globe that is swaying the course of Exchange to and fro is naturally exerting considerable influence on the trade here, and, what looked like the probabilities of business going through after the native holiday, is entirely upset by the quite unexpected but decided rise in Sterling rates that has taken place during the interval. One or two private transactions are reported, but if they are really from first hands it must be more the disinclination to run the risk of holding them through the winter than the munificent prices paid that has led to their sale. The market at the moment is certainly "flat, stale, and unprofitable," as can be seen by the prices realised at this morning's Auction, in spite of the fact that only about half of the usual quantity was offered. One quite exceptional indent for Figured Cottons has been put through for the Spring trade, the conditions as to exchange not being mentioned.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co's. Report) 17th September:—Again we have to report a week without any business being done, and the outlook at the end of this period is not much better than at the beginning. There has been the same indecision owing to the fluctuations of exchange, and the dealers are still unable or unwilling to do anything at present quotations. Metals have risen somewhat in the nominal prices in sympathy with the continued rise at Home, but owing to the exchange there have been no transactions.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

WEDNESDAY, 22nd September.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.39
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.43
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.93 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	47 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	5 1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	4 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	2 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.36
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	54.00

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 22nd September:—Rates in all the principal stocks have further advanced and holders being still firm business has been difficult to arrange. A fair general business, however, chiefly in the smaller stocks, has been put through and the market generally has shown a fair amount of activity.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—With the improvement in sterling exchange and a sharp advance in the London quotation (which is now £12.15) the market has ruled very strong, and with few shares offering the rate quickly rose from 172 to 177 per cent. prem, with only

a small business at intermediate rates. A small enquiry for shares ahead remains unsatisfied and the market closes steady to strong at quotation. Nationals have changed hands in further small lots at \$18½. Bank of Chinas continue out of the market.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders continue on offer at \$80 with buyers at \$79, and without business, excepting a small sale at \$79½. The published report shows the net premium collected to be some \$13,000 short of the previous year, and recommends that the balance at the credit of working account, i.e. \$621,807.25, be appropriated as follows: a dividend of \$5 per share (20 per cent.) to shareholders, a bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors, and the carrying forward the sum of \$351,807.25 to new account. Unions, after further small sales at \$250, are on offer at that rate, and could probably be obtained at \$247½. The report is not yet published, but it is pretty generally known that it is the intention of the directors to recommend a dividend of \$16 per share, to pay a final bonus of 2½ per cent. to contributors (making 22½ for the year), and to place \$60,000 to reserve. Straits have found further buyers in fair lots at \$17½ and close steady. North Chinas and Yangtszes have been neglected locally but have changed hands in the North in small lots. Cantons continue quiet and without business at quotation.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs remain quiet but steady at \$357.50 with little or no business. Chinas have changed hands in unimportant lots at \$106 and \$107, closing with sellers at the former rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have been negotiated at \$32 and \$31½ in small lots, closing with strong buyers at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have found a ready market at \$48 and shares are now in demand above that rate. Sales are also reported at \$48½ and \$49, market closing strong at \$49. Douglases have ruled rather easier with sales at \$65 and \$65½, closing with some sellers at the former rate. China and Manilas have found small buyers at \$75 and close steady. China Mutuals continue in a small demand without bringing out sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have considerably improved their position with sales during the early part of the week at \$143, \$144, \$145, and \$145½ for cash and a few small lots at equivalent rates forward; at time of writing shares are still enquired for at \$154 cash, but there are few sellers except at an advance. Luzons have changed hands at \$41 and close with sellers at that and probably at a point under.

MINING.—Punjoms have been put through in small lots at from \$5½ to \$6, \$5½ being the ruling rate; the market has been dull and inactive. Charbonnages have found buyers at \$85 and more could be placed at the rate. New Balmorals continue steady at \$1.40 for Ordinaries and \$1.50 for Preferences with small sales. Olivers B have been negotiated to a fair extent at from \$7½ to \$8, closing quieter with sellers at \$7½. Jelebus have been enquired for at \$2.10 and small sales have been effected at that rate. Raubs have ruled somewhat erratic but generally with an upward tendency. Shares were offering during the early part of the week, and sales were made at \$18; towards the end, however, a demand from Singapore gradually sent the rate up to \$22½ after fair sales at \$18½, \$19, \$19½, \$19¾, \$20, \$20½, \$21, and \$22. At the time of closing buyers offer \$22 to \$22½. No definite reason can be given for the rise, but unsubstantiated rumours are in circulation about Mr. Bibby being negotiating for the sale of a portion of the concession, and also that Singapore is short for the settlements. Both rumours being entirely unsupported must be taken for what they are worth. Great Easterns have changed hands at \$2, \$2.10, and \$2.20, closing at \$2.20; a telegram from the mine states that development work is about to commence.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continued on offer during the early part of the week and sales were effected at 216 for the 30th inst. A further demand at that rate, however, failing to bring out more shares, the rate rose to 218, at which the market closes with buyers. Kow-

loon Wharves continue more or less neglected and close quiet at quotation after small sales. Wanchai Warehouses are obtainable at quotation, without sales.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have eased up a little with sales and sellers at \$76, closing quiet. Hotels continue at \$48½ without inducing buyers to come forward. West Points are quiet at \$21½ with sellers, but half a point lower would in all probability bring out buyers. Humphreys Estates continue to change hands at \$9½. Kowloon Lands have found small buyers at quotation.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been quieter with only small unimportant sales at quotations. Watsons have continued steady with further small sales at \$12½. Hongkong Electrics, which in the early part of the week were rushed up to \$10½, are now on offer at \$10½ without finding buyers. Ropes, Ices, and Fenwicks have changed hands at quotations. All Cotton Mills have ruled quiet and declining with but few sales at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$347½, sal. & b. prem=
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	178 " " " "
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$19
Founders Shares...	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	£1	\$9, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$145½, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 112, sellers
Hongkong	\$20	\$18
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 122
Latou Kung Mow ..	Tls. 100	Tls. 116, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 575, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 40	Tls. 42
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$5	\$4½, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$28 25, sales
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$43½, cum. N.I., sel.
		\$29½, ex. N.I., sellers
		\$14½, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$10½, sal. & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$112
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$48½, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$63, sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$170, sales & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	218 p. ct. prem.=
		\$397½, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$172½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$106, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$79½, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$357½
North-China	£25	Tls. 200, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$17½, sales
Union	\$25	\$217½, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$158, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$76, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B...	\$30	\$9, sales
West Point Building	\$40	\$21½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$41, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$35, sales & buyers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$24	\$2.20, sal. & buyers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.10, sal. & buyers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.40
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.50
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$20, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$24	\$7½, sales & buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$5½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.40, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$22.25, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18½, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$75, sales & buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 10s, buyers
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$65, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$32, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$50, sellers
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$45, sellers
Watson & Co., S. A. ...	\$10	\$12½, sal. & sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 17th September.—(From Messrs. J. P. Biset & Co.'s Report.)—The market during the week has been fairly active, with not much change in rates. The rate of exchange on Hongkong has declined, which prevents sales to the South. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai

Banking Corporation.—Shares have changed hands to a limited extent at 182 per cent premium for cash and 183 per cent premium for delivery on the 30th current. Marine Insurance.—Yangtszes have been sold at \$156 to Hongkong equal to \$161½. North-Chinas are wanted. Straits have been purchased from Hongkong at \$17½, costing \$8.55 laid down here. Fire Insurance. No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 37 and Tls. 36½ to Tls. 36½ cash and Tls. 37 for delivery on the 31st October. China Mutual S. N. shares, both Preference and Ordinary, are wanted at present quotations. Sugar Companies.—China Sugar Refining shares were sold at \$146 cash and at \$153 for the 31st December. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. changed hands at Tls. 171 and Tls. 171½, and are offering. Engineering & Dock shares were placed at Tls. 100. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares are offering at Tls. 123. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares found purchasers at Tls. 91 and Tls. 91½, and Humphreys' Estate shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$10 laid down here. Industrial.—Shares in Major Brothers are weak with sellers. In Cotton Mill shares business was done as follow:—Internationals at Tls. 124 cash, Latou-Kung-Mows at Tls. 116/11s cash and Tls. 117 for September delivery, and Soy Chee shares at Tls. 575. China Flour Mill shares were placed at Tls. 57, American Cigarette shares at Tls. 85, and Shanghai Feather Cleaning shares, with Tls. 200 paid up, at Tls. 202. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were sold at Tls. 215 cum the second interim dividend of Tls. 5 due on the 20th current. Taku Tug and Lighter shares were placed at Tls. 112, but there are sellers now at Tls. 110. Co-Operative Cargo Boat shares were sold at Tls. 100. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were done at Tls. 91 for the 30th current cum the dividend of Tls. 1.47 paid on the 15th in tant and at Tls. 91, 92, 89 and 90 cash, and Tls. 92 and Tls. 94 for the 30th current, ex dividend. Shanghai-Langkai shares were placed at Tls. 410 and Tls. 400 cash, Tls. 400 for the 30th current and Tls. 445 for the 31st December, and to-day at Tls. 410 cash and Tls. 500 for the 31st May. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares changed hands at Tls. 76, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$40½.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 22nd September.—Since last report freights generally have advanced somewhat in certain directions. Saigon to Hongkong, there is no enquiry, and the rate is nominally 10 cents per picul; to Singapore and Java there is also no demand. A medium-sized steamer is wanted for Kobe at 23 cents per picul.

Java to Hongkong, last settlement was at 14 cents, but a steamer might now be placed at 15 to 16 cents per picul.

Newchwang to Canton.—Several fixtures are reported for October loading at 21 to 25 cents per picul, according to size, and further tonnage for late October loading is wanted at the latter rate. Coal freights from Japan have advanced. Moji to Hongkong is \$1.40, to Singapore \$2.25. From Mororan to Hongkong, medium-sized ready tonnage is wanted at \$2.25 per ton.

Sailers.—To New York no further fixtures have been reported, owners holding out for higher rates than shippers are disposed to pay. About 13s. per ton of 40 cubic feet is offered. The American ship *L. Schepp*, 1,776 tons, proceeds to the Philippines to load for the U.S., having been settled at home.

There are only two disengaged vessels in port, registering 2,102 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Iolani—Hawaiian barque, 1,178 tons, Hongkong to Baltimore, private terms.

Vale of Doon—British barque, 669 tons, Hongkong to Callao, £1,400 in full.

Chili—British steamer, 1,153 tons, Hongkong to Shanghai, \$2.10 per ton.

Oscarshol—Norwegian steamer, 764 tons, Cebu and Iloilo to Yokohama, 28 cents per picul.

Ocampo—British steamer, 1,329 tons, Java to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Tenred—Norwegian steamer, 784 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.20 per ton.

Chorfn—British steamer, 1,055 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Canton—British steamer, 1,110 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 798 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Hermes—Norwegian steamer, 849 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 21 cents per picul.

Terrier—Norwegian steamer, 1,003 tons, monthly, three months, at \$5,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Patroclus* (str.), Japan (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Coptic* (str.), Peru (str.).
 For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*Morven* (str.), *Benalder* (str.),
Gov. Robie, *Liv* (str.), *Dromellan*, *Abner Coburn*
 (str.).
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Menmuir* (str.), *Candia* (str.).
 For TACOMA.—*Olympia* (str.).
 For PORTLAND.—*Duguesclin* (str.).
 For BALTIMORE.—*Isaac Reed*, *Iolain* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—*Laos* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

September—
 14, Braemar, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 15, Teucer, British str., from Liverpool.
 15, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 15, Sullberg, German str., from Canton.
 15, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
 15, Canton, British str., from Wuhu.
 15, Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.
 15, Taicheong, German str., from Swatow.
 15, Meefoo, British str., from Canton.
 15, Tamsui, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Progress, German str., from Touron.
 16, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 17, Ingraban, German str., from Manila.
 17, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 17, Lyceemoo, German str., from Canton.
 17, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
 17, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
 17, Ceres, German str., from Hamburg.
 17, China, German str., from Saigon.
 17, Humber, British storeship, from Shanghai.
 18, Morven, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
 18, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 18, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 18, Agenor, Amr. ship, from Newcastle.
 18, Brindisi, British str., from Bombay.
 18, Mirzapore, British str., from Bombay.
 18, Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
 19, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
 19, Arratoon Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 19, Chingping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
 19, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 19, Gisela, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 19, H. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
 19, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 19, Krim, Norw. str., from Hongay.
 19, Marie Jepsen, German str., from Moji.
 19, Taiyuan, British str., from Foochow.
 19, Benalder, British str., from Amoy.
 20, Hailan, French str., from Haiphong.
 20, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Mike Maru, Japanese str., from S'pore.
 20, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 21, Oslo, Norw. str., from Chefoo.
 21, Canton, British str., from Canton.
 21, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
 21, Oanfa, British str., from Liverpool.
 21, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 21, Menmuir, British str., from Kobe.
 21, Rohilla, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Singan, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
 21, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
 21, Ningchow, British str., from Amoy.
 21, Tokio Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 21, Pronto, German str., from Canton.
 21, Fannie Scholfield, British bk., from S'pore.
 21, Astral, British str., from Sumatra.
 21, Socotra, British str., from London.
 22, Shanghai, British str., from Amoy.
 22, Woosung, British str., from Chinkiang.
 22, Sendai Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
 22, Framnes, Norw. str., from Kebao.
 22, Mogul, British str., from Moji.
 22, Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Swatow.
 22, Erato, German str., from Kobe.

DEPARTURES.

September—
 15, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 15, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 15, Flintshire, British str., for Nagasaki.
 15, Else, German str., for Hoihow.
 15, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 15, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 15, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.
 15, Loksang, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Oolong, British str., for Amoy.

15, Taichow, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 15, Tamsui, British str., for Canton.
 16, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.
 16, Tsinan, British str., for Port Darwin, &c.
 16, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 16, Saghalien, French str., for Europe.
 16, Glenartney, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Teucer, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
 18, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 18, Hoihow, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Asloun, British str., for Saigon.
 19, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Mirzapore, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Pronto, German str., for Canton.
 19, Taicheong, German str., for Singapore.
 19, Tamsui, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 20, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 20, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 20, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 21, Krim, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 21, Chingping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Benalder, British str., for New York.
 21, Belgic, British str., for San Francisco.
 21, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 21, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21, Lyceemoo, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Singan, British str., for Canton.
 21, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
 22, Ceres, German str., for Yokohama.
 22, Falkenburg, German str., for Kobe.
 22, Morven, British str., for New York.
 22, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 22, Braemar, British str., for Moji.
 22, Gisela, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 22, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 22, Skuld, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
 22, Woosung, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Thales*, from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Mr. Macgowan.
 Per *Oolong*, from Singapore—Mr. R. Grant-Smith.
 Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c.—Mrs. Unsworth.
 Per *Lyceemoo*, from Shanghai—Messrs. Schneider and Schultze.
 Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, &c.—Messrs. Fleet, Aitken, Johnson and Daniel.
 Per *Saghalien*, from Woosung for Hongkong—Messrs. Ribeiro, Hung Shee, Reichard, Japarmull, and Ranmami. For Singapore—Messrs. J. Moore, Hemetson, Tasulhoy, Tanlen Leek, Yui, Wild, and Saunders. For Colombo—Mr. de Souza. For Marseilles—Messrs. Makino, Becker, Diura, Kimura, Manry, Delome, H. Ishida, Matsutaro, Cochar, Gauffeny, Le Roy, Pollard, Guillemelle, J. Masurel, Carissimo, Desrousseaux, and Oziki. From Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. Nadeszki, Rosenfeld, and Mondon. For Marseilles—Messrs. Brandenburg, Schang, Alix, Maraschi, and Jagelberg.
 Per *Canton*, from Wuhu, &c.—Miss and Master Palmer.
 Per *Tamsui*, from Swatow—Mr. Kenny.
 Per *Hailoong*, from Coast Ports.—Master McKay and Mr. Khoo Ewe Chong.
 Per *Yamashiro Maru*, from Melbourne, &c.—Col. W. J. Anderson and Mr. E. S. Blades.
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. Matheson Brown.
 Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila—Miss French, Mr. Ozorio.
 Per *Taiyuan*, from Foochow—Messrs. Lamert and McGlow.
 Per *Gisela*, from Trieste for Kobe—Messrs. E. Rea, J. Bramley, and F. G. Crosbie.
 Per *Arratoon Apear*, from Calcutta.—Messrs. G. Kellner and J. Schippers. From Penang—Master Bertie and Miss Milly Muskett. From Singapore—Mrs. Jeffry and two children.
 Per *Ancona*, from Yokohama—Mrs. Grant, Messrs. E. Y. Judd, F. W. F. Harris, T. Cowen, E. A. Morphy, Mah Yok Tong, Tong Foo Tai, Min Kai, and Tuck San.

Per *Mirzapore*, for Hongkong from London—Lieut. F. R. E. Clarke, Mrs. A. Wells. From Bombay—Messrs. E. J. Ezra, K. A. Chenoy, and J. E. Raymond. From Penang—Capt. Cheang Ah Quee and Cheang Tye Phin. For Shanghai from London—Messrs. J. Dempster, Simmons, and J. A. Stewart. For Kobe from Bombay—Mr. J. N. Nankoria. For Yokohama from London—Messrs. H. Berrill and Pickering. From Singapore—Mr. Carnegie.

Per *Chiyuen*, from Shanghai—Mr. C. Williams.

Per *Mike Maru*, from Singapore—Messrs. H. Scheikloth and Knickrein.

Per *Menmuir*, from Kobe—Mr. Smithers.

Per *Hailoong*, from Swatow—Mr. and Mrs. Chang.

Per *Rohilla*, from Shanghai for Hongkong—Miss Hall, Mr. and Mrs. C. Beurmann, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Fairbanks. For Singapore—Mr. Lee Sut Am. For London—Messrs. W. H. Welsby, A. H. Bridge and W. H. Rhodes.

Per *Choyang*, from Shanghai, &c.—Messrs. J. Houstoun and J. Patterson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Hongkong for London—Mr. Harry Welby Cook. For Genoa—Mrs. Wm. Dietrich. For Southampton—Mrs. Farrell. For Bremen—Mr. T. Nilsen. For Singapore—Mr. Wong Man Hong, Mrs. Akow, Messrs. Rafmanaat and Tai Lee Chan, Miss Swan, Mr. S. Musso. From Shanghai for Southampton—Messrs. G. Hutcheson, McCallum, Mr. and Mrs. Nazar, Miss Nazar and two children, Mr. A. D. Barr. For Genoa—Messrs. C. Thiel, Th. Hansen, and Souheur. For Colombo—Mr. A. R. A. Heath. For Bremen—Mr. T. C. Holger. From Yokohama for Southampton—Mr. W. T. Andrews, Rev. L. T. Reyde. For Bremen—Miss Blutner, Messrs. T. Beise, Ottenstein, and Medenus. From Kobe for Genoa—Mr. C. Mombre. From Nagasaki for Singapore—Messrs. S. Kazufuse and S. Tatsun. For London—Mr. R. Bewley. For Bremen—Mr. F. Sagermaux.

Per *Wingsang*, for Shanghai—Mrs. Brett and infant.

Per *Ask*, for Haiphong—Mr. Akermann.

Per *Guthrie*, for Shanghai—Mr. and Miss Reckitt, and Mr. J. O'Shea.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila—Mrs. and Miss Parson, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Macgregor, Messrs. Marshall and Aloages.

Per *Frejr*, for Hoihow—Mr. Jeremiassen.

Per *Tsinan*, for Thursday Island—Mr. and Mrs. M. Evangelista, and Mr. G. Evangelista. For Sydney—Messrs. A. Reichard and W. N. Malloch.

Per *Saghalien*, for Saigon—Madame G. J. Blanche. For Singapore—Lieut. Hendley, and Mrs. Swain. For Marseilles—Mr. J. J. Jordon.

Per *Suisang*, for Singapore—Mr. Reid.

Per *Hoihow*, for Shanghai—Mrs. Lloyd and family.

Per *Mirzapore*, for Shanghai from Hongkong—Rev. W. Bannister, Messrs. P. d'Alcantara and R. Viccagi. From London—Messrs. J. Dempster, Simmons and J. A. Stewart.

Per *Hanoi*, for Hoihow—Mr. Sutton, Mrs. Chan See. For Haiphong—Rev. Lechandé.

Per *Taisang*, for Swatow—Mr. J. Bochard. For Chefoo—Mr. H. M. Hillier.

Per *Yamashiro Maru*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki—Messrs. A. P. Nadetzky and A. B. Rosenfeld. For Yokohama—Messrs. Oscar T. Mahrt and W. H. Meyer. From Sydney—Mr. W. G. Anderson.

Per *Nanyang*, for Shanghai—Mr. Valk.

Per *Belgie*, for Shanghai—Mr. A. C. Rocha, Mr. and Mrs. W. Powell. For Kobe—Messrs. Sakio Choh, E. F. Mackay, and Milton Harley. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Karbatnukoff, Messrs. F. Stoop and G. Stoop. For Honolulu—Messrs. Kong E. Akana and Yuen Quong.

For Hamburg—Mr. A. Pinkernelle. For Pittsburg—Mrs. M. D. Happler.

Per *Haitan*, for Swatow—Messrs. Wong Pak Yu, Fred. Focken, and Yeong Ming Sam. For Amoy—Mr. J. S. Hagan.

Per *Lyceemoo*, for Shanghai—Misses Palmer and S. T. Mackie.

Per *Taiyuan*, for Sydney—Mr. R. Jackson. For Melbourne—Mr. A. Calder.

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